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THE HASTINGS BANNER

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Students and employers connect at third annual Barry County Career Fest

Jayson Bussa
Contributing Writer

In one stroll through Hastings High School on Friday, students were able to learn about career opportunities in industries that ranged from manufacturing and finance to real estate and agriculture.

They even had the opportunity to pet a goat, for good measure (thanks to a local veterinary clinic).

That's the beauty of Barry County Career Fest, which wrapped up its third installment on Friday, held at Hastings High School, but also included a visit from students at Delton Kellogg High School.

Barry County Career Fest is a joint effort between the schools and Barry County Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Alliance to directly connect local employers with the students who will be leaving high school in the coming years and seeking both opportunities within higher education and the workforce.

The event has steadily grown throughout its three years, with this one being the largest. To accommodate the dozens of vendors, booths were set up in the high school's gym, throughout the hallway and into the Hastings Community Education & Recreation Center (CERC).

"We have met with kids that literally

See **CAREER** on 3



Students were able to try their hand at a virtual reality welding machine during Friday's Barry County Career Fest. The machine was brought in by Kellogg Community College. **Photos by Jayson Bussa**

POUNDS OF PACZKI: Local bakery sees flood of customers on Fat Tuesday



Jeff Meyers knows his way around a fryer. Here, he and his wife, Julie, work together frying paczki, a Polish doughnut often eaten to celebrate Fat Tuesday. The deep-fried, filled calorie bombs are traditionally eaten before the beginning of Lent — one last rich treat for 40 days. The Meyerses own and operate Meyers' Hometown Bakery & Beanery in Lake Odessa. Their shop is a required stop for many in the area on Fat Tuesday. This year, the bakery served 2,286 paczki on Tuesday alone. That brought the total number of paczki made by the Meyerses this season to 5,378. **Photo by Molly Macleod**

Chamber set to move to new office

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

It's no April Fools' joke. The Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance is on the move – literally.

In an email to its members dated Monday, March 3, BCCEDA officials announced that it would be moving to the former home of the Trumble Insurance Agency at 138 W. State St. in Hastings, just a block from the chamber's current office.

According to the announcement, the BCCEDA will close its office on the 200 block of State Street, which it will look to sell, on March 31 and officially open the doors at its new location on April 7.

"We take possession of the (Trumble) building on April 1," said Jennifer Heinzman, BCCEDA president and CEO. "(And) I don't think anyone knows. It's all happened so fast."

Heinzman said chamber officials weren't necessarily looking to move, but noticed the advantages of the larger, recently renovated Trumble building during a recent visit. The biggest advantage – more space – was immediately evident.

"We want to have space to grow," Heinzman said. "We are growing, so we have to expand.

"We're a team of four now. We hope to be a team of seven by the end of 2025."

With more space and staff, Heinzman added the BCCEDA is looking to stay ahead of the curve in serving Barry County's growing business community.

"We're just trying to make it a more vibrant community than it already is," she said. "We want to help with that progress."

And, according to Heinzman, the Trumble building not only offers more office space for chamber staffers but also a fully finished basement that can be used to host various events and gatherings. And, she added the move is expected to go smoothly, with the previous owners already having completed needed renovations.

"We don't have to do anything," she said. "We bought the furniture, as well."

To celebrate the move, the BCCEDA is hosting a "Chamber Ribbon Cutting & Open House" from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5 p.m.

"Everybody is welcome (to attend)," Heinzman said. "Come in and

See **CHAMBER** on 3

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GARS WIN TWO EVENTS AT OK RAINBOW EAST CHAMPIONSHIPS
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Delton's wild game dinner fundraiser displays unique culinary delights

Karen Turko-Ebright
Contributing Writer

Every year, the Delton community looks forward to the annual wild game dinner hosted by the town's Rotary Club. Rick Buller said the dinner creates an experience and is a night to gather, raise money for the community and make new memories. He's a hunter and organizer of the event since 2008.

Approximately 120 guests attended the fundraising event last month.

Many Rotarians contributed their time and talents to the wild game dinner raffle and silent auction, including Delton Area Rotary Club's (DARC) President Dan Anson.

"I build many different items out of rough-sawn white cedar: Lighthouses, wishing wells and garden boxes," Anson told *The Hastings Banner*. "Most big items are on silent auction. We also sell tickets placed in a basket; one ticket is drawn for the winner. We had around 20 items like that, too."

A $15 ticket opened the door to the venue, Faith United Methodist Church, on Feb. 22. However, the ticket was also a ballot to vote for the best wild game dinner of the night.

Loyal Rotarian, Junior Homister, never misses the DARC Wild Game Dinner.

"I've been cooking since we started 16 years ago. It helps bring the community together and lets them know what Rotary does and what it is all about," Homister said. "I make venison Sloppy Joes, there was fish chowder, venison chilis and other wild game dishes."

The event raises money for the community's needs and beyond. For nine years, Mary Collier, a fellow Delton Rotarian, has volunteered her public relations, advertising and social media skills to get the word out to the community about the DARC Wild Game Dinner.

"This event is one of the Delton Rotary's largest fundraisers and allows us to provide Delton Kellogg scholarships, flower planters, benches; donate bicycle helmets, Thanksgiving baskets, DK dictionaries, thesauruses, The Shack, Imagination Library, Adopt-a-Highway, Community Garden, DK Robotics Clubs, Hand2Hand weekend food program among so many other projects and activities that benefit our community and elsewhere," Collier explained.

Although the event draws a crowd now, Buller recalls the humble beginnings of the DARC fundraiser before it grew.

"We were out of money in 2008 as a Rotary. We were down to the bottom of the barrel. It was a financial crisis for everybody back then," Buller said. "We decided that most people in and around Barry County hunt and fish, filling their freezers full in February."

That's when the idea of creating a community tradition developed.

"Since there's nothing better to do than create our dishes, we have a competition to see who can cook the best food from their catch and hunt," Buller added.

That's when the annual wild game dinner was created to bring everyone together to test their taste buds.

"That was the beginning of it, and whether it was going to be just 30 of us from the club sitting around trying food, or more would come, we would not know until we tried it," Buller explained.

So, that's what the small group did, and 16 years later, the event is still going strong.

Rotary Treasurer for seven years, Wyoma Smith, estimated that the event raised over $5,800.



This year's first-place Delton Area Rotary Club Wild Game Dinner winners were (from left) trappers Adam Esper and father and son chefs Kody and Lee Askevitch for their seasoned beaver served on pierogi. **Photos provided**

This year, 15 chefs cooked up dishes serving various wild game dinners, ham and scalloped potatoes for those who preferred traditional cuisine.

"The dinner was fun and well received by the public," Anson said. "We had everything from venison chili to beaver."

Three chefs took home a trophy last month. This year's winners include trapper Adam Esper and father-son chefs Lee and Kody Askevitch for their seasoned beaver served on pierogi. Second place went to Buller for his sandhill crane dish, known by wild game hunters as the "Ribeye of the Sky." The bird was shot on a Canadian hunting trip, as it is not legal to shoot them in Michigan. Paul Blacken's venison chili served on cornbread took third place.

Other wild game dishes included moose, bear, elk, venison, pike, bluegill and fish chowder.

Several guests donated silent auction items, including an electric guitar, a wine and cheese basket and a large homemade wishing well. Those items drew a lot of interest and bids for the silent auction.

Three lucky raffle winners took home a gun from Bullets and Barrels of Richland. An overnight stay at Bay Pointe Inn was included in the raffle drawing. Donated baskets were awarded to people who bought door prize tickets.

The DARC Wild Game Dinner is held annually on the third Saturday of February at the Faith United Methodist Church in Delton.

This year's sponsors included Mid-Lakes Screen Printing, Ken's Sports Shop, Family Fare, Cloverdale Station, and The Dock at Gun Lake.

"The Rotary is the best-kept secret in Delton," Anson said. "We are involved in a lot of projects."



Henry, 3, and Hazel, 5, are with their new stuffed animal from the annual Delton Area Rotary Club Wild Game Dinner.



Bachman Field developers shift gears from open space neighborhood design to PUD

Molly Macleod
Editor

Staff at Green Development Ventures LLC and Allen Edwin Homes went back to the drawing board last month after proposing an open space neighborhood development in January on the northeast end of Hastings.

After hearing feedback from the Hastings City Planning Commission in January, the developers returned to the planning commission on Monday with a preliminary Planned Unit Development (PUD) plan for the property located at 900 Bachman Road.

"We did look at the open space neighborhood design. We studied it — it just didn't work for our vision for the property," said Mike West on Monday, a representative of Allen Edwin Homes. "Some of the standards, we just couldn't seem to get it to work for our model for what we were looking for. That basically left us with two options: the Planned Unit Development option or a traditional subdivision under the R-1A (zoning)."

Though the developers are moving away from a true open space design, which has several requirements to satisfy, West said the PUD will still incorporate over 6 acres of preserved open space — roughly 16 percent of the 38.25-acre parcel.

Green Development Ventures LLC and Allen Edwin Homes have proposed building 121 single-family homes on a 38.25-acre parcel at 900 Bachman Road. The development, which would be built in four phases depending on market saturation, will consist of a combination of ranch-style and two-story homes. The Bachman Field development would be adjacent to the existing Woodlawn Meadows planned unit development.

Should the PUD plan be approved, the Bachman Field developers will have more flexibility with traditional zoning requirements, like minimum lot sizes.

Initial plans proposed by the developers in January incorporated an open space neighborhood design, which preserves a portion of land on the parcel for wildlife habitat and enjoyment by the residents. Typically, an open space neighborhood reserves 10 percent of the parcel for such purposes.

Rebecca Harvey, the city's planning consultant, gave background on open space neighborhoods at January's planning commission meeting. The concept is fairly new in Michigan, introduced roughly 10 years ago. It is used mostly for preservation in rural areas.

"The whole premise of open space design, whether you're doing it in a rural community for preservation or whether you're doing it in an urban community to get green space in your neighborhood, it is based on one foundational premise. And that is, a community says, 'If it will help you preserve more open space, then we will relax our density standards,'" said Harvey.

Developers can create smaller lot sizes than would be typical in exchange for open space.

"It will essentially let you have more lots, which obviously to an applicant would make it more worth their while to do that," said Harvey. "But on your side (the city), you're saying, 'However, the reason we're compelled to do that is for a better neighborhood design and you will take that latitude in your density and take some space within that project site and preserve it as meaningful open space."

The developers came back to Monday's planning commission meeting with a PUD plan that incorporated some of the commissioners' feedback from January.

"What we did from the January meeting is in that central open space area. We eliminated a couple lots there… We inserted a walking trail, similar to what we have on the western open space area — a walking path and some benches there," West said.

West heard more feedback from planning commissioners on Monday on the preliminary PUD plan review. Sarah Moyer-Cale, city manager, said she would like to see more connectivity among roads and trails within the subdivision. Other commissioners raised concerns with stormwater drainage — a known issue in the area in existing developments.

The developers will tweak the plan once more before returning to the planning commission with a new and improved version.

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Overnight parking ban lifted in Hastings

Molly Macleod
Editor

Residents in the City of Hastings can resume overnight parking on city streets, according to social media posts by the Hastings City Police Department on Monday.

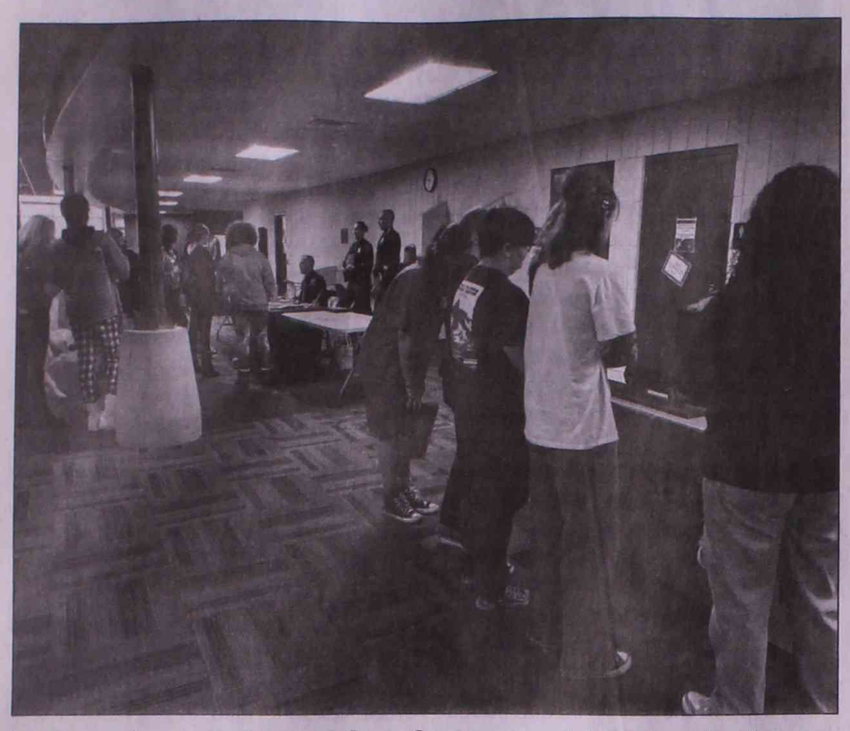
The move to lift the overnight parking ban comes in light of the mild weather residents have been experiencing in recent weeks.

"After coordinating with DPS (Department of Public Service) and researching weather forecasts, Hastings PD has chosen to end enforcement of the overnight parking ordinance until next winter," wrote the department in a Facebook post on Monday.

Since November 1, 2024, parking between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. was banned on city streets to allow for snowplows to clear roads overnight in the winter. Citations were handed out to those parking in violation of the ordinance.

The department acknowledged there may yet be another large snowstorm. In the event of heavy snowfall, Hastings PD asks residents to move their cars off the street for plow crews to clear the streets.

The overnight parking ban will resume later this year on Nov. 1.



Employers from in, and around, Barry County set up informational booths on Friday at Hastings High School for Barry County Career Fest.

CAREER

Continued from Page 1

had no idea some of these companies existed in their backyard or that these career paths were a viable option for them," said Nichole Lyke, who serves as Economic Development Director for the Chamber.

"Being able to get kids directly in front of employers who have a variety of career paths available to them is huge. It underscores to them that you can do what you want and don't necessarily have to move out of Barry County or the state."

This can be a misconception when it comes to industries that Barry County might not necessarily be known for.

"People looking for tech jobs might not realize they're here," Lyke continued. "Every one of the companies here has an IT person or they have a tech person that either does their website or internal security or network systems. It's a good opportunity to see their variety of options."

Amongst the swarm of employers, a wide range of industries were represented, from a government agency like the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to the Hastings Fire Department and Michigan State Police. The county's major manufacturers and employers were also in the mix.

Jack Webster, a safety specialist with Hastings Hot Line Tools & Equipment, manned the company's table. He said that, as time has marched on from the pandemic, it has become a little easier to find sufficient talent, but Hastings Line Tools & Equipment is always on the lookout for skilled workers in a number of areas.

"You have this next generation coming on board, we want to make sure there are a lot of opportunities in the community," Webster said. "…We have a lot of need for talented individuals. It's important for us and important for the kids to see there is work and opportunity here."



The Barry County Chamber & Economic Development Alliance is moving to the former home of Trumble Insurance Agency at 138 W. State Street in Hastings next month. Here, (from left) Trumble Insurance owner and CEO Zach Santmier stands with BCCEDA president and CEO Jennifer Heinzman and Barry Community Foundation president/CEO Bonnie Gettys. **Photo provided**

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1

check out our new space."

RSVPs are encouraged but not required.

At the open house, those attending will be able to connect with other local business professionals and tour the chamber's new home. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided.

If moving into a new office wasn't enough, chamber officials also announced the launch of its "Level Up" Capital Campaign. According to the BCCEA's e-newsletter, the campaign's key objectives include:

• Team Expansion – Recruitment of specialized staff and administrative support to meet the county's growing demands;

• Business Resource Center – Repurposing office space into a multi-functional hub, including a business development center and coworking studio, to promote entrepreneurship and innovation; and

• Technology Upgrades – Renewing critical technology contracts and investing in advanced tools to support projects.

Another goal of the campaign will be to garner financial support to help cover the cost of purchasing the Trumble building. Heinzman said the chamber's new office will feature a "donors wall" to recognize those who donate to the campaign.

"So, right when you walk in the door, there's a blank space," she said. "That will be the donor wall."

For additional information on the BCCEDA, persons may contact Jennifer Heinzman via email at jennifer@mibarry.com or by calling 269-945-2454.

Lake O council OKs amendment, extension for village DDA

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

The Lake Odessa Downtown Development Authority will live to see another day. In fact, it will continue serving downtown businesses until at least through the end of 2025.

The Lake Odessa Village Council voted unanimously, 7-0, at a special meeting Friday, Feb. 28, to amend a 2005 ordinance and keep the DDA in operation through December.

And, the vote came just in time. The 2005 village ordinance that created the DDA reportedly contained a sunset provision that would have effectively dissolved the entity as of 11:59 p.m. Friday.

"This is highly unusual," said Village President Karen Banks of the provision.

In a recent report to the council, interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow stated DDAs are usually created with the expectation "that they will exist in perpetuity" or until any charter or ordinance is repealed by the governing body.

"I suspect that including a sunset date in the original DDA ordinance was done to address concerns expressed by some taxing jurisdictions over the capture of tax increments," Guetschow stated. "Whatever the rationale for the language, it does not conform to the tax increment plan subsequently approved by council which ran through 2025.

"Extending the sunset date until the end of the year will conform to the original intent of the council, but allow for considering the DDA's continuation in light of its past accomplishments and new initiatives proposed in the updated development plan," he added.

The council's action at the Feb. 28 special meeting provides an extension for the DDA, as it works on drafting a new development plan, to come to a long-term resolution. The extension also comes at a time when the village is also working to complete a new master plan, with Banks having said the hope by officials is to have the two bodies "in sync" as they move forward.

The amendment was passed without any discussion or questions by the seven council members. Though, DDA officials and local residents had a chance to voice their opinions during a public hearing held just prior to the vote Friday night at the Page Memorial Building.

Odessa Township resident Mike Rohrbacher said some might question the value of the DDA, as it effectively reduces tax revenues from millages that were passed in support of local fire departments, libraries, senior programs and county roads.

"As dual residents, you can decide to make the village Downtown Development Authority a priority or to fully fund the two township fire department millages, the township general fund and the township library millage," Rohrbacher said. "I don't disparage the DDA or its mission, but please let it expire tonight at midnight and restart it without the capture of any Odessa Township millage funds.

"Twenty years of township support for the village's DDA is enough," he added. "Any benefit there was to the township has been well paid for."

However, DDA chairwoman Sarah McGarry defended the DDA and its value to the community as it has helped fund new facades for storefronts and addressed parking issues, as well as providing signs and banners designed to attract visitors to downtown businesses.

"All those add value to the downtown," McGarry said. "We do attract a new tax base that way."

Local business owner Cody Dreysse added his support to extending the DDA ordinance, adding the DDA's support of the business district helps increase tax revenue overall and thus also helps the millages for the fire department.

"I think cutting the DDA … in the long term would hurt all of us," he said.

Friday's vote might not only extend the DDA but also help resolve an issue between the DDA and Odessa Township officials, which have yet to release captured tax funds to the DDA for the 2024 tax year.

Prior to the special meeting, Odessa Township Treasurer Sharon Rohrbacher said she's been holding onto the funds, uncertain there would even be a DDA after the Feb. 28 deadline.



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Key Decisions for Retired Couples

Once you and your spouse retire, you'll have some decisions to make — decisions that could affect your quality of life in your retirement years. What are these choices?

Here a few of the most important ones:

• How much should you withdraw from your retirement accounts? By the time you retire, you may have contributed for decades to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. But once you retire, you'll probably need to draw on these accounts to help pay your living expenses. Consequently, both of you will need to be sure that you don't withdraw so much each year that you risk running out of money later in your retirement. One common guideline is to aim for an annual withdrawal rate of 4%, but everyone's situation is different based on age, pre-retirement income, lifestyle, health, travel plans and other factors. (Once you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later, you will have to take certain amounts, based on your age and account balance, from your traditional IRA and traditional 401(k) each year.)

• When should you take Social Security? The answer to this question depends on many factors, such as your age and other sources of income. You can take Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly payments will typically be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will be age 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. And if you can afford to wait even longer, your payments will "max out" when you reach age 70. Your decision on when to take Social Security can affect your spouse — and vice versa. If the lower-earning spouse claims Social Security before their full retirement age — again, age 67 — their own retirement benefit and any potential spousal benefit will be reduced. (Spousal benefits are given to the lower-earning spouse if their full retirement benefit is less than half the other spouse's full retirement benefit.)

• Should you downsize? If you live in a big home and your children are grown, you may find it economical to downsize. Of course, this is also an emotional decision, but you may find that you can save money by moving into a smaller home.

• Where should you live? Some states are far more expensive to live in than others. You'll want to weigh your decision carefully, considering the cost of housing, food, income and real estate taxes, transportation and health care in whatever state you choose.

• Have you finished your estate plans? If not, now is the time. You'll want to work with your legal professional to create whatever documents are needed — a will, living trust, power of attorney — to help ensure your assets go where you want them to go, and that your financial and health care choices will be protected if you become physically or mentally incapacitated.

Of course, many of these same issues will apply if you are single, divorced or widowed. But if you are married, you and your spouse will want to discuss all your choices and then decide which steps to take. Once you've got your plans in place, you may well find that you can fully enjoy your retirement years.

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Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Nominations due Friday for Groos Family Fine Arts Wall of Fame

The Friends of HPAC (Hastings Performing Arts Center) are still seeking nominations for 2025 induction into The Groos Family Fine Arts Wall of Fame (GFFAWOF). Nominees can be any past or present community member who has stood out in their contributions to the excellence in the arts or support of the arts.

A nominee should be either a group within the Hastings community at large or a person that has either lived in, or is from, the Hastings area and has contributed significantly to the Hastings Arts culture or utilized their talents with significant impact on others. They could also be a group or person that has made a significant contribution in areas such as, but not limited to application or teaching of the arts; performance of the arts; service to the arts or sponsorship of the arts.



The Grand Rapids Symphony performs at the Hastings Performing Arts Center during the fall of 2023. **File photo by Bob Gaskill**

"The Hastings Performing Arts Center is proud to announce that nominations are now open for the Groos Family Fine Arts Wall of Fame (GFFAWOF)," said HPAC site coordinator Spencer White. "This recognition honors individuals and groups who have made a significant impact on the arts in the Hastings area through performance, education, service or sponsorship."

The performing arts community wishes to show its gratefulness to the many volunteers, community members and groups that provide hours of time, passion and resources to local arts projects and programs in the area. Thanks to their contribution, a higher level of education and performance excellence is experienced by all ages in the Hastings area.

A nominee can be presented to the Friends of HPAC by anyone simply by submitting a nominee name, a short story of their contributions and contact information for the individual submitting the nomination. This contact information is pertinent so that the Friends of HPAC can follow up for more information if needed.

Send the information via email to HPAC@hassk12.org or submit a nominee by writing and sending the letter to Hastings Performing Arts Center WOF, 520 W. South Street, Hastings, MI 49058. Nominee forms must be received by Friday, March 7 by midnight.

The Friends of HPAC will review all nominations and will name candidates for the Friends of HPAC Wall of Fame induction ceremony planned for May. — *MM*

DNR hosting open house March 12 on proposed Hall Lake Dam modifications



The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is hosting a public information open house on Wednesday, March 12, to share a draft plan for decommissioning Hall Lake Dam. **Photo provided**

Molly Macleod
Editor

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is hosting a public information open house on Wednesday, March 12, to share a draft plan for decommissioning Hall Lake Dam, which is located in the Yankee Springs Recreation Area in Barry County.

The meeting will run from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Hastings Public Library, 227 E. State St. in Hastings.

DNR staff and project team members will be on hand to discuss the draft plan or any environmental concerns related to the lake and surrounding area. People will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments throughout the two-hour period.

A copy of the draft plan and public feedback form, which is open through March 19, are available online at Michigan.gov/YankeeSprings.

The dam, which is located six miles south of the village of Middleville and one mile east of Gun Lake, is owned by the DNR.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Dam Safety Unit classified the Hall Lake Dam as a significant hazard dam the last time it was inspected in July 2021. This means that if the dam fails, loss of human life is unlikely, but economic damage, environmental harm or disruption to essential services downstream are probable, say DNR representatives. Most funding for this project will come from a recently awarded EGLE Dam Risk Reduction Grant.

The $1.6 million grant, awarded in May 2024, can be used to address infrastructure concerns with the dam and potential impact on the surrounding environment. Hall Lake was one of 22 dams across the state last year to receive grants totaling $14.1 million designed to reduce the risk of dam failures. In July 2024, DNR staff said they plan to use the grant dollars to remove "all water control structures, placing a properly sized culvert to restore local hydrology, and restoring the area with native vegetation."

The Hall Lake Dam was built in the mid-1960s.

"The DNR has listened to the public feedback about maintaining recreation on Hall Lake, and has been working with EGLE and our design consultant on a solution that would address the dam deficiencies while still preserving an outdoor recreation lake experience at a new, lower lake elevation," said Joe Jandernoa, park manager, in a DNR news release.

DNR staff say public input is a valuable step in the planning process. Community members, park users, anglers and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend the open house or provide feedback via email.

For more information on the Hall Lake Dam, contact Jandernoa at 269-795-9081 or email JandernoaJ@Michigan.gov.

Power company holding open house on Odessa wind project tonight

Dennis Mansfield
Staff Writer

Landowners and local residents will be able to meet with representatives of Cordelio Power and hear more about the Tupper Lake Wind Project during a "community open house" tonight, Thursday, March 6.

The open house is slated for 5 to 7 p.m. tonight, with a formal presentation at 6 p.m., at the Hughe House on Velte Road in Lake Odessa. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

According to an invitation sent out to landowners in Odessa Township and the surrounding area, the event will allow residents to learn about the project's status, as well as hear from Peter Sinclair of the non-profit organization Farm-To-Power. Representatives of various groups involved in the project, such as environment development, construction and engineering, will be on hand to answer questions.

Stephanie Buway, senior director of development with Cordelio Power, said the open house is hopefully a chance for area residents to become better acquainted with the company and even possibly become involved with the project.

She added the event is "the best of both worlds," with those attending the function able to "mix and mingle," and ask questions in an information setting, while also providing important details on the wind generation project via a formal presentation.

"We just want to make sure everyone gets the same message," Buway said. "We're introducing ourselves to the township.

According to Buway, the Tupper Lake project includes several townships, including Odessa Township, and would be a 198-megawatt project of between 44-47 wind generators.

According to Buway, Cordelio Power purchased the proposed project from the Dallas-based Leeward Energy in 2024. Cordelio is still purchasing land for the project, as working on design aspects.

And, tonight's event might not be the only one of its kind.

"We want to see how this one goes" before scheduling another open house, Buway said. "We'll see what happens next week."

Those planning to attend the open house are urged to RSVP by calling Buway at 989-292-9924 or via email at sbuway@cordeliopower.com.

"We don't know how many to expect," Buway said. "Who knows how many may come?

"(But) if they don't RSVP, they won't be turned away."

NOTHIN' BUT A GOOD TIME



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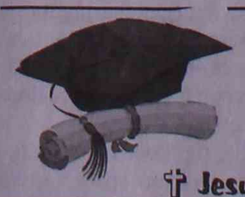
Tickets: hastings.ludus.com | 269-818-2492

Other Events

HHS Musical | Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
Thu, 03/13 | 7:00 pm ~ Fri, 03/14 | 7:00 pm ~ Sat, 03/15 | 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Middle School Pre-Festival Concert | *Tue, 03/18 | 7:00 pm*
MSVMA MS Choral Festival | *Fri, 3/21 | 8:00 am - 5:00 pm*
Thornapple Wind Band | *Sun, 3/23 | 3:00 pm*
Hastings Youth Choir (HYC) | *Tue, 3/25 | 6:30 pm*
HHS Choir Follies | *Thu, 4/17 | 7:00 pm*

Special program note: The performance of *Rhythm is Gonna Get You*, scheduled for Saturday, March 22, has been canceled.

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SEN. ALBERT: A path for voters to decide on daylight saving time

When March rolls around, the old adage "in like a lion, out like a lamb" frequently comes to mind. Some may still connect this expression with the weather, but there is a growing contingent of people who associate this lion with "springing ahead" into daylight saving time.

Last year, I introduced a bill to place the question of whether to flip our clocks back and forth every year before Michigan voters. While the bill did not advance, the overwhelming public response to it convinced me this issue should be addressed once and for all. I plan to introduce the proposal again this year, seeking to give voters the chance to decide whether to continue participating in daylight saving time during the November 2026 election.



Senator Thomas Albert

It's worth exploring how a policy causing hundreds of millions of Americans to dust off their alarm clocks twice a year came into existence in the first place.

In 1918, daylight saving time was adopted by Congress through the Standard Time Act. It was enacted primarily because Germany had undertaken a similar measure aiming to support its war production efforts. Despite the lack of conclusive evidence, Germany became the first country to change its clocks based on the hypothesis it would save energy by maximizing daylight hours and minimizing the need for artificial lighting.

Other nations, the United States included, followed suit to prevent their enemy from having a potential advantage. Once World War I ended, Americans wanted to get back to standard time. Twice, Congress sent President Woodrow Wilson a bill to repeal daylight saving time, and twice he vetoed it. The second time, the repeal became law through a Congressional override and national daylight saving time ended. Clearly, daylight saving time was contentious from the beginning.

For the next 23 years, the federal government stayed out of the time change business, but that ended shortly after the United States entered World War II. In early 1942, Congress passed a law implementing what was referred to as "War Time," which was a year-round daylight saving time. Learning its lesson from the previous foray into this policy, Congress included language to revert to standard time after the war ended — which is what happened in 1945.

In 1966, the federal Uniform Time Act was signed into law. It established a national daylight saving time with federally mandated dates, but reserved the ability for individual states to opt out and remain on standard time year-round. The only deviation was a brief period of permanent daylight saving time during the energy crisis of 1974, but it was quickly abandoned as people did not like that it was simply too dark for too long in the morning hours.

Federal law does not allow states to remain on daylight saving time year-round, and this limits a state's options. The choice is between participating in daylight saving time and changing clocks twice a year or not changing clocks and remaining on standard time.

The state of Michigan has put this issue up to a vote of the people twice. In 1968, Michigan voters rejected daylight saving time. In 1972, voters approved it. Both votes were relatively close.

Throughout this 107-year history, hypothetical energy savings has been the justification for the time change. Like all proposals set forth by our world's innovators who claim to control laws of nature, there is a striking lack of consensus on its efficacy. At best, the evidence is mixed and not worth the sleep disruption and possible health concerns raised by the time change.

With all this in mind, we should ask why we continue year in and year out with this time change. I, for one, see no credible evidence to validate this twice-a-year thorn in the side of everyday Americans.

It's been 53 years since state voters weighed in, and I propose we again allow Michiganders to render a verdict. Arizona and Hawaii, along with roughly 60% of the nations in the world, have opted to avoid this inconvenience. Michiganders can lead the charge for a return to common sense in clock management.

State Sen. Thomas Albert represents the 18th District, which includes Barry County and portions of Allegan, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Kent and Ionia counties.

BUILDING BRANDS Keep your brand top-of-mind



Emily Caswell

One of the best parts of my job is getting to interview people who have landed a new job in a leadership role. There is something so invigorating about talking to a person who refers to their new position as a "dream job." Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious and their ideas inspiring.

I had the opportunity to interview a new team member at one of our largest clients last week. After more than two decades in his industry he was offered his current role, saying it was an opportunity of a lifetime. He was clearly excited about his new job and ready to tackle a number of goals and initiatives.

Not pointing any fingers, but how many of you admit that you too felt this energy, this drive to succeed during the first few weeks of a dream job, but it's since dwindled? It's understandable that the feeling can fade over time, which is why I love the chance to talk to people ready to light the world on fire. It's fun and educational to learn about their goals and in some cases those goals reignite an idea about a core branding practice that some of us maybe have let fizzle out.

That was the case last week. This person told me that his ultimate goal was to have people think of his business when they thought of the industry on a whole. As in, when people think newspaper, we want them to think View Newspaper Group.

This should be everyone's No. 1 goal no matter what industry you work in. To achieve this, your brand has to be top-of-mind.

Easy to say, not easy to do. Consumers have endless options today whether they are shopping for a car, a pair of shoes or their news. So, how do you stay top-of-mind? Here are some ideas:

Build a strong brand: Before your brand can be top-of-mind, it has to be a strong brand. Strong brands include at least a mission, vision, tagline and logo. Once those pieces are in place it's important to ensure every person on your team has a good understanding of those items. Each team member must have a practiced elevator speech so when asked "What do you do?" they are strengthening your brand with each conversation. Team members are the best brand ambassadors around. Customers are the second best brand ambassadors, meaning each time you interact with a customer it's an opportunity to strengthen your brand. If that customer has a great experience with your brand, word will spread. (Word will also spread if it's not a great experience).

Be consistent: Protecting the integrity of your brand is vital to staying top-of-mind. If your brand colors change a lot or your tagline varies, it can confuse consumers. If they aren't sure it's you, how can they be sure they are thinking of you when they think of your industry? Your brand must be presented the same each and every time it's presented anywhere.

Be frequent with your message: Regular readers of this column probably saw this tip coming as I constantly write about building your brand through consistency and frequency (at least I practice what I preach!). You cannot run one ad in our newspapers or buy a billboard for one month and expect to remain top-of-mind to consumers. Your brand must appear in many advertising avenues often. What if you're low on inventory or maybe what you sell is out of season? You still need to advertise to stay top-of-mind. Maybe your adverting message isn't about products, try a customer testimonial or better yet a thank you message to your loyal customers. There are endless ways to keep your brand out there so that when you're inventory is back or the season is right for what you sell customers think of you because you've stayed top-of-mind.

Do all of the above in a newspaper ad: Advertising in print allows a brand to put their name, logo and marketing message in a trusted source that it's in the hands (and in the case of View Newspaper Group) the homes of thousands of consumers. Newspapers offer frequency, in our case, your message is delivered twice a week or weekly to consumers. Newspapers cut through the digital clutter. Readers are more likely to remember your brand when it's sitting on their dining room table versus trying to remember what platform they saw you on. Best of all, our team of experts can help you build a strong brand and will always ensure your advertisement is consistent with your brand. After all, it's our dream job.

How do you stay top-of-mind? Email me at ecaswell@mihomepaper.com.

Rep. Gina Johnsen to hold Hastings office hours

State Representative Gina Johnsen will hold office hours on Saturday, March 15, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Victory Hill Church, 1674 W State Road in Hastings.

This session provides residents of the 78th House District—which includes parts of Ionia, Kent, Eaton, and Barry counties—an opportunity to engage directly with Rep. Johnsen. Constituents are encouraged to attend to discuss concerns, ask questions, and share their thoughts on state and local issues.

No appointment is necessary, and all are welcome to attend.

For those unable to attend, Rep. Johnsen's office is available by phone at 517-373-1796 or by email at Gina-Johnsen@house.mi.gov. — *MM*

Speaker Pro Tem Smit to host office hours in Delton

Speaker Pro Tem Rachelle Smit invites residents to attend her local office hours on Friday, March 21, from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Grove Street Cafe.

Smit's office hours are an opportunity for constituents to speak directly with their representative and ask questions or share ideas.

Grove Street Cafe is located 370 N. Grove Street in Delton.

Rep. Smit represents the cities of Allegan, Fennville, Wayland, as well as the townships of Allegan, Bellevue, Fillmore, Manlius, Clyde, Overisel, Heath, Valley, Salem, Monterey, Dorr, Hopkins, Watson, Wayland, Martin, Barry, Yankee Springs, Orangeville, Hope, Prairieville, Johnstown, Assyria and part of Jamestown.

Rep. Smit also invites residents to contact her Lansing office at 517-373-0615 or RachelleSmit@House.MI.gov. Mail can be addressed to her at N-892 Anderson House Office Building, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909. — *MM*

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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

View Newspaper Group publications accept letters to the editor. Letters should refer to an article that has appeared within this publication or ary sister View Newspaper Group publication in the last 14 days or refer to a local event that has taken place in the last 30 days.

All writers must provide their full name, home address and phone number. All letters must be original and are subject to editing for clarity and liability. Letters may not exceed 250 words and writers may not submit more than one letter per 30-day period. View Newspaper Group reserves the right to withhold publication of any letter.

Election-related letters are limited to 150 words and endorsements are limited to no more than three per candidate, per election cycle. View Newspaper Group will not publish letters from candidates for elective office or their campaigns, form letters or letters sent to other publications. Election-related letters will not be published in the final two weeks before Election Day.

Moolenaar owes constituents town hall

Editor,

Last week's *Banner* reported a large gathering of citizens at the library to meet with Congressman John Moolenaar. These monthly office hours usually draw one or two people. The more than 110 people in attendance reveals the gravity of our national situation and the concerns that Barry County citizens share regarding the Republican administration's policies. We refuse to be passive subjects of a President who flaunts the law by firing Inspectors General and who grants access to the confidential data of everyday Americans to unregulated and unqualified computer hackers. We won't stand by while these same people destroy vital government functions in the name of "efficiency." We won't tolerate the President's disregard for the Constitutional balance of power and the rule of law. As citizens of Michigan's 2nd Congressional District, we demand that our elected Representative, John Moolenaar, uphold his oath to defend the Constitution and oppose these abuses. We demand a Town Hall meeting where he addresses our concerns instead of hiding behind his aides.

Ed Szumowski
Hastings

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HERBICIDE APPLICATION

The Daltons Inc., its main office at 8857 N. Syracuse-Webster Rd., Syracuse, IN 46567, has been contracted by Barry County Road Commission to perform custom chemical vegetation control maintenance services at designated roadside guardrail locations throughout the county.

In doing so, they will be broadcast applying the following EPA-registered materials: Bayer/Envu Esplanade 200SC (Indaziflam), Bayer/Envu Method 240SL (Aminocyclopyrachlor), Alligare Imazapyr 4SL(Isopropylamine salt) or BASF Arsenal 4#. Do not enter or allow entry into treated areas until sprays have dried.

This application will be completed by certified applicators employed by The Daltons Inc., during the months of April and/or May.

Additional information may be requested by contacting David Mohler or Brad Bolinger at 574-267-7511

OBITUARIES

VIEW OBITUARIES ONLINE. HASTINGSBANNER.COM

Raymond E. Garvey



Raymond E. Garvey 73, of Nashville, MI, passed away peacefully on February 24, 2025, surrounded by the love of his family.

Ray was the heart of our family—the steady, loving presence who brought us all together. A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, he was a man of great wisdom, generosity and quiet strength. He had a gift for working with his hands and, with the blues playing in the background, could build or fix anything. For anyone. Family, neighbors, his friends, their friends, his friend's families….If you needed help he was there—no questions asked. Our homes are filled with the work of his hands, from projects he completed to the little repairs that made life easier. Every tile, every repair, every detail is a reminder of his love and the way he took care of all of us.

His love for collecting and appreciating the little things in life was something he passed down to his grandchildren, who will carry on his passion. They loved to sit in his '56 Chevy with him at car shows, sift through shark teeth he'd found at Myrtle Beach and inspect the dates on coins to help him complete his vast collections.

An athlete through and through, Ray had a competitive spirit that never faded. In highschool he was a baseball pitcher, wrestled and played football. Later on it was softball with his wife and coworkers from Post where he was a Project Engineer, then taking on racquetball, golfing with friends and Brandon whenever he got the chance (he had 2 hole-in-ones and an albatross!), and, most recently, his passion was pickleball. His love for sports extended beyond playing—he traveled across the country to cheer on Megan as she played basketball–AAU, highschool, Albion College. He was her biggest fan. He coached his kids floor hockey teams, basketball, and t-ball. Lately he could be found on the sidelines of the soccer fields, cheering on Sutton, Breckin and Rowan, and in the backyard teaching Weston how to throw a ball.

Ray graduated from Michigan Tech in 1975. It was where he fell in love with Char, who he would've celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with this June. He found joy in the simple pleasures of life. Some of his happiest moments were spent on the beach with Char by his side. No matter where he was or what he was doing, he brought laughter, warmth, and a competitive spirit that made every moment special.

Above all, Ray was a wonderful Papa. He never missed an event for anyone. His family was his greatest treasure, and he made sure we all knew how much we were loved.

Ray is survived by his beloved wife Char, his children Brandon (Trisha) and Megan (Ryan), his cherished grandchildren Sutton, Rowan, Breckin and Weston. He is also survived by his sisters Linda (Hugh), Kirstie (Darwin), Rex-Ann (David), his brother in law Rock Ludwick, extended family and many friends. He is preceded in death by his parents Jack and Marie Garvey and his sister Kathy Ludwick.

A celebration of Ray's life will be held on Saturday, March 8th at Daniels Funeral Home in Nashville. Visitation will be at 11:00 and the service at 12:00. A luncheon will immediately follow at Daniels with a graveside burial at Lakeview Cemetary in Nashville after that.

Ray's love, strength, and the memories he gave us will live on forever in our hearts.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Daniels Funeral Home, conveniently located at 9200 E. M-79 Hwy, Nashville, MI. For further details, please visit our website at www.danielsfuneralhome.net.

DO YOU **REMEMBER?**



CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?

— BANNER MARCH 2, 1995 —

Ignoring the camera, this swan enjoyed the sunshine as he sawm in the waters beside Bowler Road, north of Hastings. Robins have been sighted all over the county. Can spring be far behind?

Grace Lutheran hosting fiddler jamboree Saturday

Put on your dancin' boots — the fiddlers are coming to town.

The Michigan Fiddlers Association is hosting a jamboree at Grace Lutheran Church in Hastings this Saturday, March 8.

Fiddlers will perform from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, followed by an open jam from 4 to 5 p.m.

Event organizers say all musicians, dancers and audience members are welcome to join the fun.

Grace Lutheran Church is located at 239 E. North St. in Hastings.

More information on the jamboree can be found by contacting Mary Hanson at 616-363-0478. — *MM*

PIERCE CEDAR CREEK INSTITUTE EVENTS

— MARCH 7-13 —

Those interested can register for these events and find more information at cedarcreekinstitute.org/events/

March 1-31 — Mystery Hike: A Sticky Situation. Spring is a time of melting snow and new growth. Plants emerge from dormancy and undergo a variety of processes to prepare for the summer growing season. Follow the trail to solve the mystery of spring's sweetest treat. The Mystery Hike is free and self-guided on the Lupine Trail.

March 1-31 — March Storybook Walk: "Hello, Puddle!" by Anita Sanchez; illustrated by Luisa Uribe. What happens in a puddle? This puddle is a busy place, welcoming animals and creating habitat. Explore puddle ecology of all four seasons. After your storybook adventure, stop by the Visitor Center to pick up an activity sheet. The Storybook Walk is free and self-guided on the Black Walnut Trail.

Friday, March 7 — March Specialty Dinner and Artist Reception: Fish Fry. Dinner is from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by the artist reception from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 10 — Bird Brains with the Barry County Bird Club, 9-10 a.m. Join the Institute and the Barry County Bird Club for a social birding hour.

Tuesday, March 11 — Volunteer orientation training, 6-8 p.m.

More information about these events can be found on the Institute's website at CedarCreekInstitute.org.

HASTINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 6 – Beginning Gardening with MSU-certified Master Gardener Garry Cruse, 2 p.m.; Movie, Memories and Milestones watches a 1952 film starring Richard Widmark and Marilyn Monroe, 5 p.m.

Friday, March 7 – Friday Story Time 10:30 a.m.

Monday, March 10 – Crafting Passions, 10 a.m.; Stories & Snacks, 4 p.m.; Beginning Gardening with MSU-certified Master Gardener Garry Cruse, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 11 – Baby Cafe, 10 a.m.; mahjong, 2 p.m.; Teen Clothing Mending, 3:30 p.m.; chess, 5 p.m.; Lift Every Voice Book Discussion: "Warrior Girl Unearthed" by Angeline Bouley, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12 – Itsy Bitsy Book Club, 10:30 a.m.; Open Art Studio, 11:30 a.m.

More information about these and other events is available by calling the library, 269-945-4263.

Worship Together



...at the church of your choice ~ Weekly schedules of Hastings area churches available for your convenience...

HASTINGS FREE METHODIST CHURCH
"We Exist To Be An Expression Of Who Jesus Is To The World Around Us". 2635 N. M-43 Hwy., P.O. Box 8, Hastings. Telephone 269-945-9121. Email hastfmc@gmail.com. Website: www.hastingsfreemethodist.com. Pastor Brian Teed, Assistant Pastor Emma Miller, Worship Director, Martha Stoetzel. **Sunday Morning Worship:** 9:45 a.m. with Kids Church and Nursery. Aftermath Student Ministries: Sundays 6 p.m.

SOLID ROCK BIBLE CHURCH OF DELTON
7025 Milo Rd., P.O. Box 765, (corner of Milo Rd. & S. M-43), Delton, MI 49046. Pastor Roger Claypool, (517) 204-9390. Sunday Worship Service 10:30 to 11:30am, Nursery and Children's Ministry. Wednesday night Bible study and prayer time 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
502 E. Grand St., Hastings. Pastor Tod Shook Wednesdays - Bible Study - 6 to 7 p.m.; Sunday School - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Service - 11 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. www.cbchastings.org.

WOODLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
203 N. Main. Pastor: Kathy Smith. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.; Worship 10:15 a.m.

CHRIST THE KING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)
328 N. Jefferson Street. Worship 10 a.m. Nursery provided. Pastor Peter Adams, contact 616-690-8609.

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH
805 S. Jefferson. 269-945-4246 Pastor Father Jeff Hanley. Mass 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Mass 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday.

LIFEGATE COMMUNITY CHURCH
301 E. State Rd., P.O. Box 273, Hastings, MI 49058. Pastor Scott Price. Phone: 269-948-0900. Website: www.lifegatecc.com. Sunday Worship 10 a.m. Wednesday Life Group 6:30 p.m.

HASTINGS BAPTIST CHURCH
309 E. Woodlawn, Hastings. Matt Moser, Lead Pastor. Sunday Services: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School for all ages; 10:30 a.m. Worship Service; Senior High Youth Group 6-8 p.m.; Young Adults 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Family Night 6:30-8 p.m., Kids 4 Truth (Children Kindergarten-5th Grade), 6:30-8 p.m. Middle School Youth Group; 6:30 p.m. Bible Study and Prayer. Call Church Office 948-8004 for information.

PLEASANTVIEW FAMILY CHURCH
2601 Lacey Road, Dowling, MI 49050. Pastor, Steve Olmstead. (269) 758-3021 church phone. Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

This information on worship services is provided by The Hastings Banner, the churchesand these local businesses:

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

'In My Time' Part V

BANNER AUG. 10, 1995

JOYCE F. WEINBRECHT

In 1919, the Faulkner family moved to Middleville to operate the drug store there, which had belonged to John Armstrong. Robert Faulkner continues his story about living in Middleville in the 1920s:

"Our house in Middleville had a back kitchen that years ago had been used for canning or preparing vegetables. This was to keep the heat and mess out of the house. It was now used only for storage, but the sink still worked so I set up a little chemistry set and proceeded to make nitroglycerin.

"My first attempt was a success. I tested it by wetting a small piece of paper with the material and placing it on the sidewalk and hitting it with a hammer. However, I wasn't satisfied with the quantity of yield so I salted the ice to cool the mixture. Returning a little while later, the container was half full of long, slender crystals of nitroglycerin. It was time to go to school, so I left it and after school, the nitro had melted. Later, I learned that if I had broken one of those crystals, the whole mess would have exploded. There would have been little left of the house and nothing left of me. I had been saved by the school bell.

"East and northeast of Middleville are clay hills. South of Middleville stretching to Yankee Springs, the soil is of light sand. One of the standing jokes was that all the tax assessor had to do was sit on a fence on a windy day and assess the property as it went by.

"But west and northwest of Middleville was a large prairie of fertile loam. Most of the area had been settled in the 1800s by immigrants from Germany. They were thrifty and hard-working. Their homes were neat and their farms productive. In the 1920s, most of their farming was still done with horses.

"The German farmer belonged to the German Lutheran Church, which was about four miles west of Middleville in the middle of the prairie. The wooden church burned but was immediately replaced by a beautiful brick church. The Sunday evening service was in the German language for benefit of the older members, most of whom had immigrated from Germany.

"At wheat harvest time, a steam threshing machine visited each farm in turn to thresh the grain. Neighbors always came in to help. The threshing bee was hard work, but also a social occasion. The farmer's wife was judged by how good a dinner she served the hungry men when they came in.

"An old custom that was still in practice in the 1920s was the Shivaree. Honeymoon trips were very rare. Usually when a couple married, they spent the night in their new home. After they had retired for the night, a large group of friends and neighbors would gather on the yard of the newlyweds, and, on signal, horns, bells and clanging saws would rend the night. Shotgun blasts and shouts of 'come out' added to the din. The couple being Shivareed knew the unwritten rules and always refused to come for a half an hour or so. Then, doors were opened and the bride and groom appeared. Sometimes, they invited the gang in for refreshments.

"We often drove to Delton on a Sunday or holiday for dinner at Grandma's dinners. No wine or liquor of any kind was ever served in Grandma's house or in our house. We never even thought about it. We were practicing prohibitionists.

"When we drove to Delton, we passed through Yankee Springs, about seven miles south of Middleville. The town had a historical past, but little was left. A few old apple trees were all that remained of the large orchards planted soon after the Civil War. Parts of the old apple dryers, where apples were dried in the sun and shipped to Detroit and Chicago, still stood.

"From Middleville to Yankee Springs, the road was sandy ruts, but from Yankee Springs, the road was gravel. Beside this road in a low spot were the springs after which the town was named. Beside the springs were the ruins of Yankee Springs Tavern.

"At the turn of the century and before, Yankee Springs Tavern was the stagecoach stop between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. As more and more travelers spent the night there, the owners added a few more rooms. This continued for many years until it became known as the Yankee Springs Tavern (Mansion), seven stories on the ground.

"The old stagecoach road in the lowland past the tavern was made of logs flattened on top. This type of road was common in Michigan in the 19th century and was called a corduroy road. What a ride those stagecoach passengers must have had!

"Dad told us stories about his early years in Delton. In 1903, when Dad bought the Delton drugstore, he, Mother and Paul moved in upstairs. They lived over the drugstore for several years. It had an outside stairway and a fenced yard where 3-year-old Paul could play. My grandpa Faulkner was not well, and Dad set him up in a store in Cedar Creek, a hamlet about four miles from Delton, consisting of a flour and feed mill operated by water power, a couple of stores and a handful of houses.

"The store was not successful, and when Dad, Mother and Paul moved to a rental house, the display cases that contained threads, ribbons, bric-a-brac and etc., were moved from Grandpa's store over to the drugstore, where they gathered dust for many years. The rented house was just east of the lot where Dad built our house in 1910. It was the house where I was born just a couple of months before our new house was finished.

"The previous owners of the drugstore bought whiskey in kegs. Men brought in their pint or quart bottles and they were filled from the kegs. For a



A view of the post office and Faulkner's Drugstore in Delton.

while, Dad continued to sell liquor. He charged 50 cents a pint.

"One customer kept complaining that Dad never had any good whiskey. One day, when this customer came in, Dad had just received a new keg of the same whiskey and offered the customer a taste, but added that this whiskey would cost him a dollar a pint.

"'Ellis, this is the first good whiskey you have ever had,' he said. After that, this customer always bought the dollar whiskey.

"This reminds one of the old adage, 'You get what you pay for.'

"It was not long before Dad realized if he was going to attract women customers, he needed to improve the store's image. He quit handling whiskey but he had a bigger problem to solve.

"The store was heated by a big pot-bellied stove, which sat near the middle of the store. In the winter, several men who had little to do gathered in front of the stove, played checkers, gossiped and chewed tobacco. The men directed their tobacco juice at the open door of the store, missing as often as not.

"One of the most persistent loafers was Ellsworth Barrett, who had a farm on Orchard Street across from our house. He had all winter to loaf. He would challenge Dad to game after game of checkers and always win. Dad, being new in town, couldn't afford to offend Ellsworth, but he knew he had to discourage his daily visits. So, Dad sent away for a book on how to play checkers. He marked his squares on a large wooden checkerboard and studied the game. Soon, he could beat Ellsworth's every game and very soon Ellsworth stopped coming to the store.

"Ellsworth Barrett told great yarns and one day someone accused him of being the biggest liar in town. Ellsworth replied, 'I'm not a liar. If you tell a lie that's such a big lie that everyone knows it's a lie, it ain't no lie at all.'

"A year or two later, Dad put the stove in the rear of the store and built a prescription counter to divide the back room with the stove and his desk from the front of the store. He added wallpaper, which he kept upstairs, and paint, which he kept in a side room. His business grew and prospered.

"The paint he handled was BPS, the best paint sold. He put up signs on all the roads leading to Delton. My Aunt Bessie had graduated from the pharmacy school at Ferris Institute in Big Rapids, passed the state board of pharmacy exam and came to work in the store. She did not appreciate it when some prankster changed the 'Best Paint Sold' signs to read 'Bess Ain't Old.'

"When I was 4 or 5, the house across the street caught fire during the night and I was awakened by the sounds of men shouting 'Fire! Fire! Fire!' I scrambled out of bed, and peering out the window saw men pulling the fire wagon down the street. It had a water tank shaped like a large barrel suspended between two carriage wheels and two shafts designed for a horse. But there had been no time to hitch up a horse, so several men manned each shaft. Other men ran along the side alerting the neighborhood with their cries of 'Fire!'

"I made my way downstairs. Dad had already joined the firefighters and Mother, seeing that I was very frightened, rocked me in her favorite rocking chair. As she rocked, she sang in a soft, soothing voice until I fell asleep.

"The summer of 1916 or 1917, I'm not sure which, was very hot. It was over 100 degrees for many days. Horses were dying in the fields. Farmers were suffering heat stroke.

"The Dosters had a farm up the road from us on Orchard Street. One day, Mr. Doster collapsed in the field from the heat. The doctor packed him in ice from Dad's ice house and he recovered.

"We had heard much about people being overcome by the heat. One day, we were playing in our yard and Florence Sheffhouser, the high school girl who lived with the Murdochs next door, was sitting in the shade of their house. I staggered across the driveway and getting my words mixed up, said to her 'I'm coming over with the heat.;

"In the winter of 1919, while Dad was busy with his duties as probate judge, Mother helped Aunt Bessie in the drug store. She sent out the washing to a lady who lived across town. She put the clothes in two round bushel baskets, the sheets over the top and Arnold and I would put the baskets on our sled and deliver them to the laundress, whom we called the washerwoman.

"Our route took us down a street, along the C.K.&S. tracks, across from the lumber yard. One day, the manager of the yard, Art Guntsenhauser, was standing in the yard near the tracks. He hollered at us and we stopped to visit.

"'Who do you think is going to win the Willard-Dempsey fight?' he asked. 'Jess Willard,' I replied.

"Willard was the heavyweight boxing champion of the world, outweighing Jack Dempsey by many pounds and was inches taller. Dempsey was about 6'1", and weighed only about 185 pounds. Dempsey had started fighting in 1914 as Kid Blackie. In those days, he fought for purses as little as two dollars and a half. I was certain Jess Willard would make short work of him.

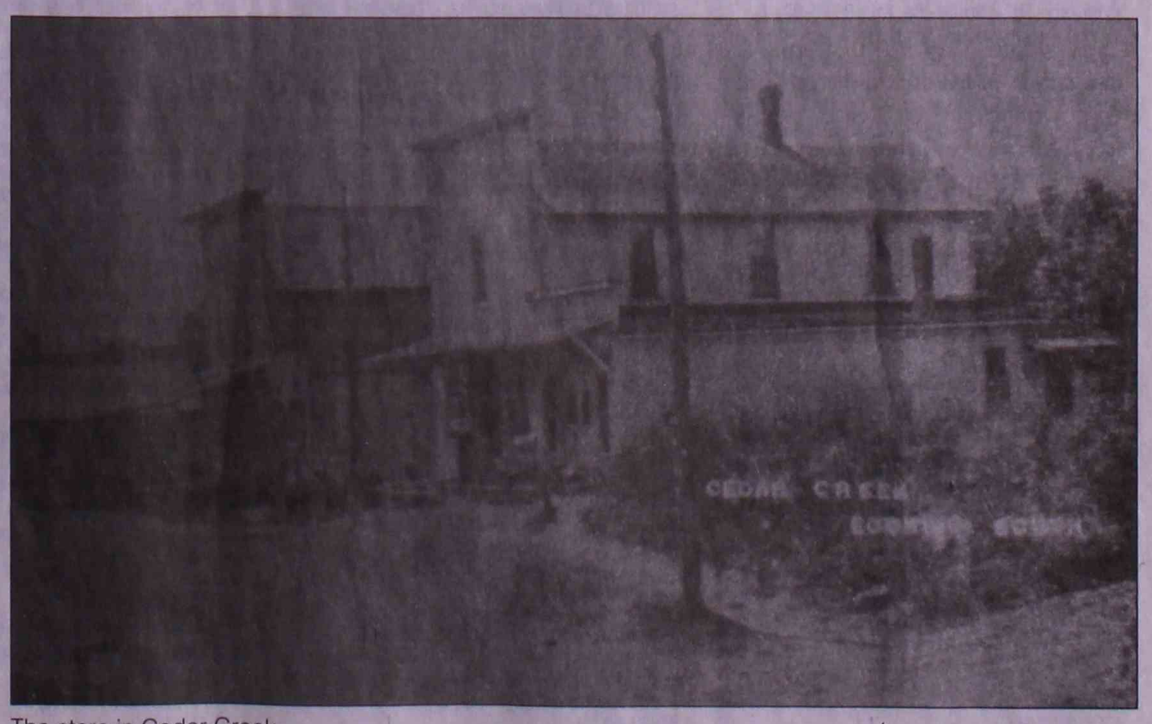
"'Jess Willard is a powerful brute,' Mr. Guntsenhauser said, 'But I think Dempsey will win. Do you want to bet on the fight?' 'I'll bet on Jess Willard,' I replied. 'How about a quarter,' Mr. Guntsenhauser asked. 'All right,' I replied, thinking I had just made an easy 25 cents.

"After Dempsey won the fight, I avoided the vicinity of the lumber yard. This is one debt I still owe. It bothered my conscience, but I didn't have 25 cents. However, I learned a good lesson and I vowed never to make a bet I couldn't afford to pay if I lost.

"In later years, I extended the lesson to include investments. No matter how much of a sure thing an investment appears to be, never obligate yourself to an investment if you are going to be upset or depressed if you lose your money, don't invest or wager.

"After Dad's death in August 1959, I found a hundred shares of worthless old stock in the bottom of his safety deposit box. On the envelope, he had written a note to himself, 'Save, so you won't forget!' He learned another investment lesson: don't invest until you've thoroughly studied the company."

To be continued...



The store in Cedar Creek.

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Denton W. Kemp and Cindy S. Kemp, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: November 23, 2018 Recorded on November 28, 2018, in Document No. 2018-011472, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Three Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen and 90/100 Dollars ($103,214.90) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: Commencing 1,094 feet South of the Northwest corner of Section 22, Town 4 North, Range 7 West for point of beginning; thence East 198 feet; thence South 110.5 feet; thence West 198 feet; thence North 110.5 feet to point of beginning. Commonly known as 215 S Main St, Woodland, MI 48897 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1552985
(02-13)(03-06)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Anthony T. Wonnacott, a single man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): New American Funding, LLC FKA Broker Solution Inc. DBA New American Funding

Date of Mortgage: August 24, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 6, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $74,549.95

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Thornapple, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at a point on the West line of Section 19, Thornapple Township, Barry County, Michigan, 1238.40

feet South of the Northwest corner of said Section; thence South 172.0 feet; thence East 300 feet; thence South

130 feet; thence East 300 feet; thence North 155 feet; thence East to the West 1/8 line of said Section: thence

North 147.0 feet; thence West to the Point of Beginning.

Common street address (if any): 4696 Patterson Rd, Middleville, MI 49333-9742

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 13, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1553000
(02-13)(03-06)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Joyce J. Dennie, unmarried

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

Date of Mortgage: July 17, 2014

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 30, 2014

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $13,470.37

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Woodland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot Twelve (12) of Innovation Subdivision according to the recorded plat thereof being located in the Northwest one-quarter of Section 3 Town 4 North Range 7 West, Woodland Township, Barry County, Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 7795 Woodland Rd, Lake Odessa, MI 48849-9323

The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 13, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1552706
(02-13)(03-06)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Juan Navarro and Esther Beecroft n/k/a Esther Navarro, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Wells Fargo Financial America, Inc

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): US Bank Trust, N.A., not in its individual capacity but solely as owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust

Date of Mortgage: May 27, 2008

Date of Mortgage Recording: June 13, 2008

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $76,144.33

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Orangeville, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 33 of Lapham's Airport Lots, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, on Page 100, being a part of Section 8, Town 2 North, Range 10 West.

Common street address (if any): 5729 Marsh Rd, Shelbyville, MI 49344-9611

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 27, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1553725
(02-27)(03-20)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, March 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Karen Hickey, An Unmarried Woman to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated October 25, 2021, and recorded on November 1, 2021, as Document Number: 2021-013538,. Barry County Records, said mortgage was corrected by an Affidavit of Scrivener's Error dated February 3, 2025 and recorded February 5, 2025 by Document Number 2025-000877, Barry County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated February 04, 2025 and recorded February 11, 2025 by Document Number: 2025-001003, Barry County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty and 99/100 ($170,880.99) including interest at the rate of 4.37500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Maple Grove, Barry County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at the Southeast Corner of the North 70 acres of the East 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 28, Town 2 North, Range 7 West; Thence North 676 feet for a place of beginning; Thence North 258 feet; Thence West 260 feet; Thence South 258 feet; Thence East 260 feet to the place of beginning. Subject to a Highway Right of Way for Highway M-66. EXCEPT 120 FOOT WIDE PARCEL, 60 FEET ON EITHER SIDE OF M-66 HWY AS CONSTRUCTED PARCEL DEEDED TO STATE IN LIBER 307, PAGE 377. Commonly known as: 8260 S M 66 HWY, NASHVILLE, MI 49073 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: February 20, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00035-1 (02-20)(03-13)

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT.
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in BARRY County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Shawnda Robinson and Mathew Hallifax, joint tenancy with full rights of survivorship, whose address is 1249 Boncher Boulevard, Hastings, Michigan 49058, as original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR AMERIFIRST FINANCIAL CORPORATION, being a mortgage dated May 28, 2021, and recorded on June 1, 2021 with Document Number 2021-007090, Barry County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated March 29, 2024 and recorded on March 29, 2024 and given document number 2024-002088 in Barry County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 11/100 DOLLARS ($246,600.11). Said premises are situated in the Township of Hastings, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and are described as: UNIT 19, OF SUMMERWYN ESTATES EAST CONDOMINIUMS, FORMERLY KNOWN AS, CREEKWOOD SITE CONDOMINIUMS, ACCORDING TO THE MASTER DEED RECORDED IN DOCUMENT NUMBER 1024069 AND AMENDEMENTS, RECORDED IN 2016-010383 AND RE RECORDED IN 2017-05529, AS AMENDED, BARRY COUNTY RECORDS, AND DESIGNATED AS BARRY COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO. 13, TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS IN THE GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS AND THE LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS AS SHOWN ON THE MASTER DEED AND AS DESCRIBED IN ACT 59 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1978, AS AMENDED. Street Address: 1249 Boncher Boulevard, Hastings, Michigan 49058 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: February 20, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson (P69564), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 24 6194
(02-20)(03-13)

NOTICE
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on MARCH 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Nicholas Toecker and Rachel Antony, husband and wife, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Ark-La-Tex Financial Services, LLC dba Benchmark Mortgage, Mortgagee, dated April 10, 2023 and recorded April 12, 2023 in Instrument Number 2023-002951 and Affidavit Affecting Realty recorded on January 29, 2025, in Instrument Number 2025-000738, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Data Mortgage, Inc. dba Essex Mortgage, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand Six Hundred Ninety and 67/100 Dollars ($172,690.67).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on MARCH 13, 2025.

Said premises are located in the City of Hastings, Barry County Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 35, Supervisor Chase's Addition No. 2 to the City (formerly Village) of Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, except the West 123 feet thereof, according to the recorded plat thereof, filed in Liber 3, Page 2, records of Barry County, State of Michigan.

918 N Michigan Ave, Hastings, Michigan 49058

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: February 13, 2025
File No. 25-000855
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road,
Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(02-13)(03-06)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - BARRY COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Rylee Nicholson and Ty Sinclair, joint tenants Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: September 30, 2022 Recorded on October 7, 2022, in Document No. 2022-010426, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight and 77/100 Dollars ($226,728.77) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Barry County, and described as: The North 5 acres of the East 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 15, Town 3 North, Range 8 West, Barry County, Michigan. Commonly known as 2340 E State Rd, Hastings, MI 49058 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1553861
(02-27)(03-20)

PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP, BARRY COUNTY NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Prairieville Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Township budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026 on March 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Prairieville Township Hall, 10115 S. Norris Road, Delton, Michigan.

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the Prairieville Township Hall.

Prairieville Township will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon seven days notice to the Prairieville Township Board.

Contact the following: Rod Goebel, Clerk
Prairieville Township Hall
10115 S. Norris Road
Delton, MI 49046

CASTLETON TOWNSHIP BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Castleton Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026 at the Castleton Township Hall located at 915 Reed St., Nashville, MI on Wednesday March 12, 2025, at 1:00pm with the regular township meeting immediately following.

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THE HEARING.

A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Township Hall or by e-mail: castletontwpclerk@gmail.com or by calling 517-852-9479

This notice is posted in compliance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act Public Act No. 267 of 1976 as amended MCL 41.72a (2) (3) and the American Disabilities Act. The Castleton Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon ten (10) day notice to the Castleton Township Board. Note: Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Castleton Township Clerk Marcia Scramlin writing to:
Castleton Township
915 Reed St.
Box 679
Nashville, MI. 49073
(517) 852-9479

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING JOHNSTOWN TOWNSHIP

The Johnstown Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026 at the Johnstown Township Hall,13641 S. M-37 Highway, Battle Creek on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the township office.

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO
SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.

The Johnstown Township board shall have a special meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of approving final bills, and any other business necessary to complete the fiscal year. A budget public hearing shall be part of this meeting.

The Johnstown Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon (5) five days notice to the Johnstown Township board by writing or calling the following:

Sheri Babcock, Johnstown Township Clerk
269-721-9709 Ext. 202 or E-mail: johnstownclk@mei.net

TO ALL CREDITORS: The Grantor, Dorothy J. Paige (date of birth 07/24/1925), who lived at 9950 South Clark Road, Nashville, Michigan 49073, died on 02/13/2025. There is no personal representative of the Grantor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Dorothy J. Paige Trust, dated February 5, 2015, as amended by First Amendment to the Trust dated June 22, 2016, will be forever banned unless presented to Co-Trustee Rick Hinken, Sr., within four months after the date of publication. Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it. Date: February 28, 2025 ATTORNEY: CO-TRUSTEE: Kristle A. Teague (P85631) Teeples and Teague Law, PLLC 230 E. Fulton St. – Ste J Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616) 776-7200 Rick Hinken, Sr. 4230 Hicks Highway Olivet, MI 49076 (269) 209-7514

(03-06)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENTS TRUST

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Michael John Hodge (DOB:00/00/1948), who lived at 9232 Lakeview Drive, Delton, MI 49046, died on November 8, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent and the trust described below will be forever barred unless presented to Megan Groen, Trustee of the Michael John Hodge and Nancy Sue Hodge Trust dated October 24, 2022, at 1331 Dennison, East Lansing, MI 48823 within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice. Please note, there will be no Probate Court proceeding in this matter, so claims must be filed with the Trustee.

McGINTY, HITCH, PERSON ANDERSON & REVORE, P.C.
Robert P Sabourin II P 57569
3410 Belle Chase Way, Suite 600
Lansing, MI 48826 (517)351-0280

Megan Groen
1331 Dennison
East Lansing, MI 48823

GO ONLINE TO HASTINGSBANNER.COM

WOODLAND TOWNSHIP 2025-2026 BUDGET NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 at the Woodland Township Hall, 156 S. Main Street, Woodland, MI 48897 on March 31 , 2025 at 7:00 pm. A copy of the proposed budget is available for inspection. The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Public Notice

City of Hastings

2025 Board of Review Meeting Schedule

The City of Hastings Board of Review for 2025 will be held at Hastings City Hall, 201 E State St, on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting: March 4th, 1:00 pm

Appeal Hearings:

Tuesday, **March 11th,** 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Wednesday, **March 12th,** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Meetings are by Appointment, to schedule, contact: City Hall @ ph. 269-945-9350

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests and to equalize the 2025 assessments.

By City Resolution, residents are able to protest by letter, provided protest letter is received by March 10th, 2025

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Commercial	44.36	1.1271
Residential	47.13	1.0608
Industrial	43.60	1.1467
Agricultural	45.47	1.0996
Personal Property	50.00	1.0000

Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 3-day notice.
Contact: Sarah Moyer-Cale - City Manager, ph. 269-945-9350

Barry Township 2024-2025 Budget Public Hearing NOTICE

The Barry Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 at the Barry Township Meeting Hall, 155 E. Orchard St., Delton, MI 49046 on Tuesday March 11, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be the subject of this hearing.

A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at the Township office. The Barry Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 7 days notice to the Barry Township Board.

Note: Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Barry Township Board by writing or calling the following:

Barry Township Board
P.O Box # 705
Delton, MI 49046

Phone: 269-623-5171
Fax: 269-623-8171
email @ barrytownship@mei.net
barrytownshipmi.com

Respectfully,

_____
Debra J. Knight, Clerk

NOTICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BARRY COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that the Barry County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing for the following:

Case Number: SP-03-2025 - Paul Wengerd (Applicant) Matthew Wengerd (Property Owner)
Location: 8810 S Broadway, Hastings MI in Section 29 of Baltimore Township.
Purpose: Request to allow an assembly operation in the RR (Rural Residential) zoning district per section 1102 and 2309, of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008.

Case Number: SP-04-2025 - Mahlon &Elizabeth Kauffman (Applicant/Property Owner)
Location: 9501 North Ave, Dowling MI in Section 31 of Maple Grove Township.
Purpose: Requests a special land use to build and sell utility/storage buildings per section 1903 of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008 in the A (Agricultural) zoning district.

Case Number: SP-05-2025 - Trenton & Rayann Wilcox (Applicant) James & Nicole Campeau (Property Owner)
Location: 6742 Barber Rd, Hastings MI in Section 9 of Carlton Township.
Purpose: Request to construct an ADU (accessory dwelling unit) in the RR (Rural Residential) zoning district per Section 1102 and 2305 of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008.

Case Number: SP-06-2025 - Steve Pennington (Applicant) Paul Bruxvoort (Property Owner)
Location: 5915 W Irving Rd, Hastings MI in Section 32 of Irving Township.
Purpose: Request to operate an Open Air Business (canoe & tube rental) in the RR (Rural Residential) zoning district per Section 1102 and 2354 of the Barry County Zoning Ordinance 2008.

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2025 TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Tyden Center
Community Room
121 South Church Street
Hastings, Michigan 49058

Site inspections of the above described properties will be completed by the Planning Commission members before the hearing. Interested persons desiring to present their views upon an appeal, either verbally or in writing, will be given the opportunity to be heard at the above mentioned place and time.

Any written response may be mailed to the address listed below, faxed to (269) 948-4820, or emailed to Barry County Planning Director Jeff Keesler at jkeesler@barrycounty.org.

The special use applications are available for public inspection at the Barry County Planning Department, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Please call the Barry County Planning Department at (269) 945-1290 for further information.

The County of Barry will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audiotapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon ten (10) days notice to the County of Barry. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the County of Barry by writing or call the following: Eric Zuzga, County Administrator, 220 West State Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, (269) 945-1284.

Sarah VanDenburg, Barry County Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF ASSYRIA 2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 8094 Tasker Rd, Bellevue, MI 49021, to examine and review the 2025 assessment roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 4:00 pm Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025, 1:00 to 4:00 pm and 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 9:00 am to Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm

And on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected and approved.

APPEALS ARE HEARD ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS; letter appeals will be accepted and must be received no later than 5:00 pm the Friday before the first appeal hearing.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	47.57%	1.0511
Commercial	55.51%	0.9007
Industrial	47.31%	1.0569
Residential	46.64%	1.0720
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.

Tom Wing, Supervisor Assyria Township
Kevin Harris, Assessor Assyria Township

Assyria Township Board Meetings are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to Assyria Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Assyria Township by writing or calling.

Assyria Township Clerk
8094 Tasker Rd.
Bellevue, MI 49021
269-758-3646

SPORTS

Late heroics from Howland help DK get by River Rats

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

An unreal final six and a half minutes by junior guard Tyler Howland helped Delton Kellogg earn an extra 32 minutes in its 2024-25 season.

Howland scored 19 points in the final six and a half minutes of the fourth quarter as the Delton Kellogg varsity boys' basketball team rallied for a 50-42 victory over Southwestern Athletic Conference Central Division foe Holland Black River in the MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinals in Saugatuck Wednesday, Feb. 26.

The Panthers couldn't repeat their district championship from a year ago though Friday night, falling to Bloomingdale back in Saugatuck.

Howland had 19 points, a handful of rebounds and a couple steals in the fourth quarter alone as the Panther team finished digging out of what had been a 25-13 halftime hole against Black River.

It took 19 minutes for the Delton Kellogg boys to score its first 19 points as a team Wednesday night. Holland Black River took its 12-point lead into the halftime locker room and a 7-0 run by the Panthers to start the second half finally made it start to feel like a ballgame.

"I noticed our team needed something to get us going. We are a very energized team, and once we get going we start to get in a flow," Howland said. "I just started wanting to outwork others, and defense turns into offense and I was getting to the hole. They were setting screens, my guys were finding me on the three-point line and I hit a couple. That helped us out a lot."



Delton Kellogg senior guard Grant McArthur looks to fire a pass along the baseline in front of Black River senior Charlie Reither during their district semifinal game at Saugatuck High School Wednesday, Feb. 26. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Delton Kellogg outscored Black River 14-4 in the third quarter and then Howland took over. He tipped rebounds away from the River Rats. He rose above everybody to pull in a couple of offensive rebounds. One of those offensive boards kept a possession alive and then he finished that possession by burying a three that put DK in front 32-31 with 6:11 to go in the ballgame. It was Delton Kellogg's first lead since 4-2 in the opening minutes.

"It was something that was said, don't make this the last one. Don't make this the last one, for this season at least," Delton Kellogg head coach Jason Howland said. "He is a kid that loves the game of basketball. I don't think he has played to his potential this year. He has at times, but he just needs to be consistent at that level. I just tell him, just come out and leave the court knowing you're the best player. He kind of showed that tonight where he was able to take over the game and control it.

"Super proud of him."

Tyler Howland had a put-back that tied the game at 34-34. With 4:10 to go he chased an inbound pass from mid-court into the backcourt where he shook two Black River defenders and then went coast to coast for two points that put DK up 37-34. A minute after that with DK down one, sophomore teammate Grady Matteson was all set to cut through the lane when he looked up and saw Tyler building momentum on the right wing. Matteson paused his run to leave the lane open for Tyler who attacked the paint, rose up and kissed a floater off the glass for two that put Delton back in front 39-38.

Another triple from Tyler wiped out the last Black River lead of the night with 1:25 to go, putting Delton in front 42-40.

Oh yeah, and he was 7-of-8 at the free throw line in the last 45 seconds.

Howland finished with a game-high 24 points. Junior guard Keegan Hill added 11 points for the Panthers and McArthur had nine.

"After that first half, I was kind of thrown back a little bit," coach Howland said. "I didn't know exactly what was going on. We struggled offensively big time. We kind of came out lethargic. Black River, I knew they were going to bring that energy after winning Monday night. They're going to play and they're going to keep on playing hard no matter what. They were up above us, and we just couldn't really catch up that first half."

Delton Kellogg swept its two games in the SAC Central with Black River this season, but started slow against the River Rats' zone defense Wednesday night. The River Rats used their size advantage to do some good work on the boards, especially in the first half, and it took some real focus on attacking the basket for Delton Kellogg to right the ship. Coach Howland said he was happy that the 1-2-2 zone his team seemed to really struggle against in the first half didn't show up as much in the second.



Delton Kellogg junior guard Tyler Howland flips a shot through the arms of BlackRiver senior Charlie Reither at the rim during their MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinal at Saugatuck High School Wednesday, Feb. 26. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

"We had the match-ups where when it was man we could attack the basket and do some scoring there and that kind of stuff," coach Howland added. "We struggled big-time being able to move that ball, holy cow."

In the end, the Panthers outscored the River Rats 37-17 in the second half, and it could have been more if the Panthers had been better than 12-of-26 overall from the free throw line as a team. DK head coach Jason Howland was happy with how often his guys got to the free throw line though and thought 12 makes at the line is a big total this season.

Black River had three guys in double figures led by 12 points from senior forward Charlie Reither, who was one of those guys pulling down key rebounds for the River Rats all night. Junior Jamison Huizenga and senior Andrew Eklov had ten points apiece for Black River.

Bloomingdale defeated Fennville 69-55 in the second district semifinal of the night in Saugatuck Wednesday and then knocked off the Delton Kellogg boys 50-36 in the district final Friday.

"We came out flat and turned the ball over early, got ourselves in a hole and we could never really get it going on offense,": coach Howland said of the loss in the district final. "We just got out played on both ends of the court. Not the night to put up our second lowest point total of the year."

He was pleased with the way his guys got to the free throw line in the district semifinal, but they weren't able to make that happen against the Cardinals Friday.

"We could have done a much better job, losing is hard when you do not give it your best effort and know you could have played and coached a much better game. Proud of our effort this year and looking forward to what this team can accomplish next year," coach Howland added.

The Delton Kellogg boys end the year with a record of 13-9.

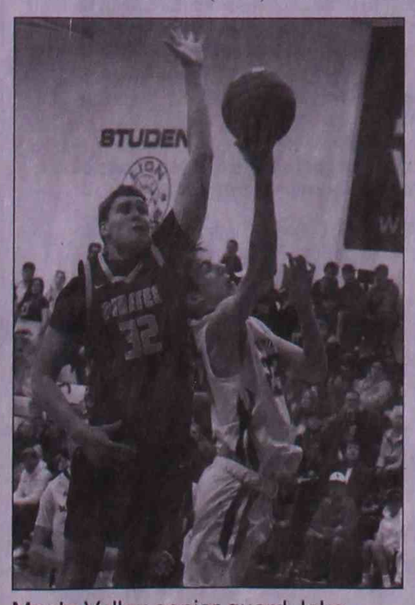
The 13-11 Bloomingdale boys were set to head to Kent City Tuesday, March 4, to take on Pewamo-Westphalia in the MHSAA Division 3 Regional Semifinals.

Pirates extend district championship streak

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Maple Valley varsity boys' basketball team found a way to slow down a Potterville team that hit ten three-pointers in the first half of its MHSAA Division 3 District Semifinal at Maple Valley High School Wednesday.

An answer never materialized against a talented Pewamo-Westphalia (21-3) team in the district final Friday, Feb. 28, back at MVHS. The Pirates took a 76-38 win over the Lions (8-16) in the district championship game.



Maple Valley senior guard Jake McDonald attacks the basket as Pewamo-Westphalia junior Trent Piggott arrives to try and disrupt the shot during the MHSAA Division 3 District Final at Maple Valley High School Friday.

The Pirates had 14 different players score and half of them hit at least one three-pointer. Grady Eklund hit five of his team's 15 three-pointers and finished with a game-high 17 points to lead the Pirates. He had 14 of those points in the first half as the teams rolled through their benches in the second half.

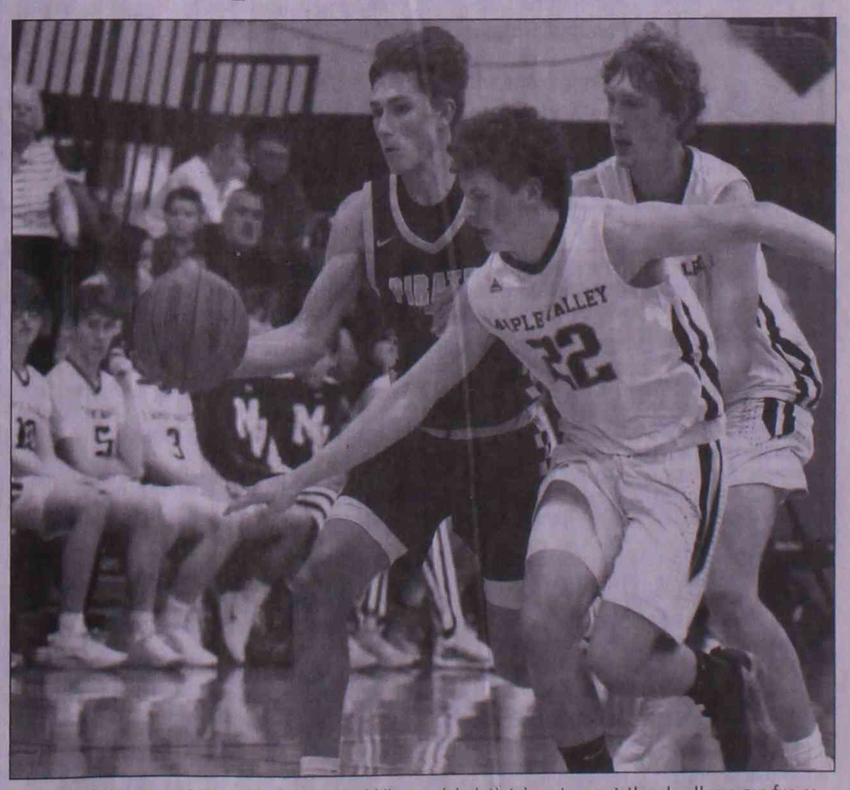
"They are really good," Maple Valley head coach Ryan Nevins said. "They can come at you in so many different ways. Five guys can come in and shoot the ball. They're good shooters, don't get me wrong, but they are by far the best defensive team that we have played in three or four years. It is not just one or two kids, it is ten or 11. Every kid that comes in. They play really hard, and it creates easy opportunities for them. If we don't get an easy one, we get a turnover and they're pushing it the other way, and they can spread you out and attack the rim or they have enough shooters where they're going to make shots.

"They got hot early, and we couldn't recover. It is just one of those teams where if you get down early it is going to be super tough."

Maple Valley had nine different guys score led by Teegen McDonald's eight points. Kelvin Nevins-Davis buried a couple of corner threes and finished with seven points. The Lion team got six points each from Jake McDonald and Cam Murray.

The Pirates had all eyes on Teegen, especially early in the ballgame.

"On our end, we have to do as better job of passing and moving. We kind of talked about that. Any time we get stagnant, stand, the ball gets stuck and we have a tough time scoring," Nevins said. "The last three weeks, up until tonight, we have done a really good job of doing that. You can see that we have been playing much better and we've been in a lot of close games. Partly it is their defense, and partly it is a big stage for us. These kids haven't played in many big games like this."



Maple Valley senior guard Jimmy Wiggs (right) tries to get the ball away from Pewamo-Westphalia senior guard Reece Thelen while Lion teammate Eli Wright chases the play during the second half Friday at Maple Valley High School. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

That is not an issue the Pirates have.

The Pirates have not lost a district ballgame since 2015, winning nine district championships since then. P-W was set to go to Kent City Feb. 4 to face Bloomingdale in the MHSAA Division 3 Regional Semifinals.

Trojans and Vikings open postseason with victories

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The end of the regular season was a little bittersweet, but the postseason started the way both the Thornapple Kellogg and Lakewood varsity girls' basketball teams were hoping – with wins.

The Trojans controlled things from start to finish in the regular season finale in Middleville Thursday evening. Seniors Emma Geukes and Emma Dykhouse knocked down three-pointers for the Trojans in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter, with Dykhouse's earning an especially explosive reaction from the Trojan bench.

Senior Lydia Schilthroat was able to scoop an underhand shot up between Lakewood's Elizabeth Markwart and Heidi Carter while being fouled for an and-one opportunity that bumped the Trojan lead to its final margin of 57-17.

One at a time, Geukes and Dykhouse came off to applause and hugs while Schilthroat waited at the free throw line, and after her shot attempt it was her turn. The emotions of the moment hit the Trojan senior trio on the sideline before the handshakes began – and before the team's state postseason started this week.

Thornapple Kellogg opened the postseason with a 46-40 win over Byron Center at Byron Center High School Monday in an MHSAA Division 1 District Quarterfinal match. The Trojans were set to face Caledonia in the district semifinals back at Byron Center High School Wednesday, March 5.

Lakewood faced Capital Area Activities Conference White Division foe Charlotte in the opening round of the MHSAA Division 2 District Tournament at Olivet High School Monday and took a 53-39 win over the Orioles. The Vikings and Orioles split their two regular season meetings this season.

Lakewood was slated to face another CAAC White foe, Eaton Rapids, in the district semifinals in Olivet March 5.

The Vikings moved to 6-13 overall this season with their win over the Eagles Monday. Thornapple Kellogg is now 10-12.

The host Trojans got out to a 13-2 lead in the opening quarter Thursday, and things never got much better for the Vikings.

But the Lakewood ladies learned they have to bring a little more fire right from the get-go and got to face some tough zone defense. All helpful things as they prepared the district match-up.

Getting shots was a challenge for the Vikings in Middleville. Jacqueline Possehn had a team-high five points for Lakewood, hitting a three and a pair of free throws. Avery Farrell, Liz Markwart and Ana Grant had four points each.

Thornapple Kellogg had four girls in double figures led by 13 points from Geukes. Schilthroat finished with 11 points and Dykhouse ten. TK also got 11 points from sophomore forward Reece Ritsema, seven from sophomore guard Ellie Harmon and five from freshman guard Taylor Lloyd.



Lakewood freshman guard Heidi Carter is pressured by Thornapple Kellogg's Lydia Schilthroat (left) and Taylor Lloyd during the first half of their non-conference ballgame to close the regular season in Middleville Thursday.



Thornapple Kellogg seniors Lydia Schilthroat (from left), Emma Geukes and Emma Dykhouse get a moment on the bench together at the end of their team's victory over Lakewood in the regular season finale in Middleville Thursday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Vikings finally slow Sexton a little

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The district semifinal ballgame Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Lakewood High School was a big improvement over two losses to the Sexton boys during the regular season for the Lakewood varsity boys' basketball team.

The J-Dubbs scored 92 and 77 points in the two team's Capital Area Activities Conference White Division meetings this winter. This time Sexton found itself in a battle which it ultimately won 56-44 to improve to 16-5.

Keyshawn Summerville led Sexton with 19 points and Mario Murray put in 13. A 20-point outburst in the second quarter put the J-Dubbs in a good spot to get to the district final. They led 29-14 at the half. The J-Dubbs lead was in double figures throughout the second half.

Troy Acker had a team-high 12 points for the Vikings, Bryer Poll nine and Hollis Poll six points.

Lansing Catholic beat Charlotte 51-39 in their semifinal ballgame Wednesday.

Maroons make life tough for Saxon senior inside

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Holland Christian ran through the MHSAA Division 2 District Tournament at Hamilton High School last week knocking off the Hastings varsity boys' basketball team and then the Hamilton Hawkeyes in the district final.

At times this season, the Saxons went into match-ups with a simple plan: get the ball inside to senior Jett Barnum and get out of the way.

Holland Christian had a plan for that Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the district semifinals though.

"It was a tough matchup for sure. They pressured us all game and have very solid athletes in all positions," Hastings head coach Jess Webb said. "Our team effort was solid as always, but Holland Christian did a good job of taking Jett out of the game, by doubling him quickly, forcing him to get rid of the ball. They are a well-coached team and had a game plan to stop Jett and force others to beat them."

Others getting the job scoring done helped the Saxons stick with the Maroons into the second half, but Hastings had seven turnovers and four points in the third quarter and Holland Christian took command of the ballgame.

Holland Christian had a 16-10 lead after one quarter and led 26-17 at the half, and then they opened the second half on an 8-0 run.

"We had opportunities to keep it tight in the first half with good looks and got to the free throw line. However, we didn't capitalize on them," coach Webb said. "We just never got into a good rhythm with how they pressured us full court with jump traps and that affected us, especially in the third quarter where we only had four points and seven turnovers.

"Unfortunately, it took us 'til about the fourth quarter to start moving the ball up the floor and being able to put pressure on the rim by attacking the paint."

The Maroons shot over 50- percent from the floor on the night. Titus Spencer led his team with 21 points, four rebounds, five assists and four steals. Holland Christian also got 13 points from Jake Holcomb and 14 from Grant VanderZee.

The Maroons held Barnum scoreless and he only managed to get off two shots in 29 minutes of action. He had five rebounds and two assists in the ballgame. The Saxon team also got eight points from senior guard Dre Mathis and eight points from senior center Eli Randall.

"The bright spots are that our two sophomores, Jack Webb and Quincy Brown, were our leading scorers with 12 and 11 points," coach Webb said. "The work they have put in this year is paying off. They have the potential to be very good leaders and will do great things for us over the next couple of years.

"We will graduate seven seniors this year, all of whom were an absolute pleasure to coach and grow with. That will make us young next year, but I think we have some very special talent coming up through the program that will make us a fun team to watch over the next few years and hopefully beyond. The future is bright and we will continue to focus on strengthening the foundation of Saxon hoops."

Hastings closes the year with a record of 5-18 overall

The Holland Christian improved its mark to 16-8 with a 64-54 win over the Hamilton Hawkeyes in the district final Friday. Hamilton advanced to the district final by outscoring Wayland 81-68 in its semifinal match-up last Wednesday.

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Molly K. Diekhoff, an unmarried woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST
Date of Mortgage: August 8, 2005
Date of Mortgage Recording: August 10, 2005
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $113,303.98
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Woodland, Barry County, Michigan, and described as: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 30, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 7 WEST, WOODLAND TOWNSHIP BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN DISTANT NORTH, 858 FEET FROM THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 30; THENCE NORTH, 220 FEET ALONG SAID WEST LINE; THENCE EAST, 231 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST FRACTIONAL 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 30; THENCE SOUTH 220 FEET; THENCE WEST, 231 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT FOR PUBLIC HIGHWAY PURPOSES OVER THE WESTERLY 33 FEET THEREOF FOR DURKEE ROAD, AND ANY OTHER EASEMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD.
Common street address (if any): 3200 Durkee Rd, Hastings, MI 49058-9449
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 27, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515

1554208
(02-27)(03-20)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement.
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on APRIL 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Heather Anne Barton, an unmarried woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for MB Financial Bank, N. A., Mortgagee, dated October 12, 2016 and recorded October 18, 2016 in Instrument Number 2016-010472 and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on February 19, 2019, in Instrument Number 2019-001257, and Loan Modification Agreement recorded on October 17, 2023, in Instrument Number 2023-008173, Barry County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank, N. A., by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Two Hundred Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Nine and 43/100 Dollars ($207,769.43).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Barry County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on APRIL 3, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Thornapple, Barry County Michigan, and are described as:
That part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 36, Town 4 North, Range 10 West, described as: Beginning at the East 1/4 corner of said Section 36; thence South 89 degrees 50 minutes 30 seconds West 625.0 feet along the North line of said Southeast 1/4; thence South 45 degrees 09 minutes 30 seconds East 575 feet, more or less, to the centerline of Thornapple River; thence Northeasterly along said centerline 295 feet, more or less, to the East line of said Section 36; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes West 215 feet, more or less, to the Place of Beginning.
7101 W Loop Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: March 6, 2025
File No. 25-003062
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

DK duo ends finals on medal stand a second time

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

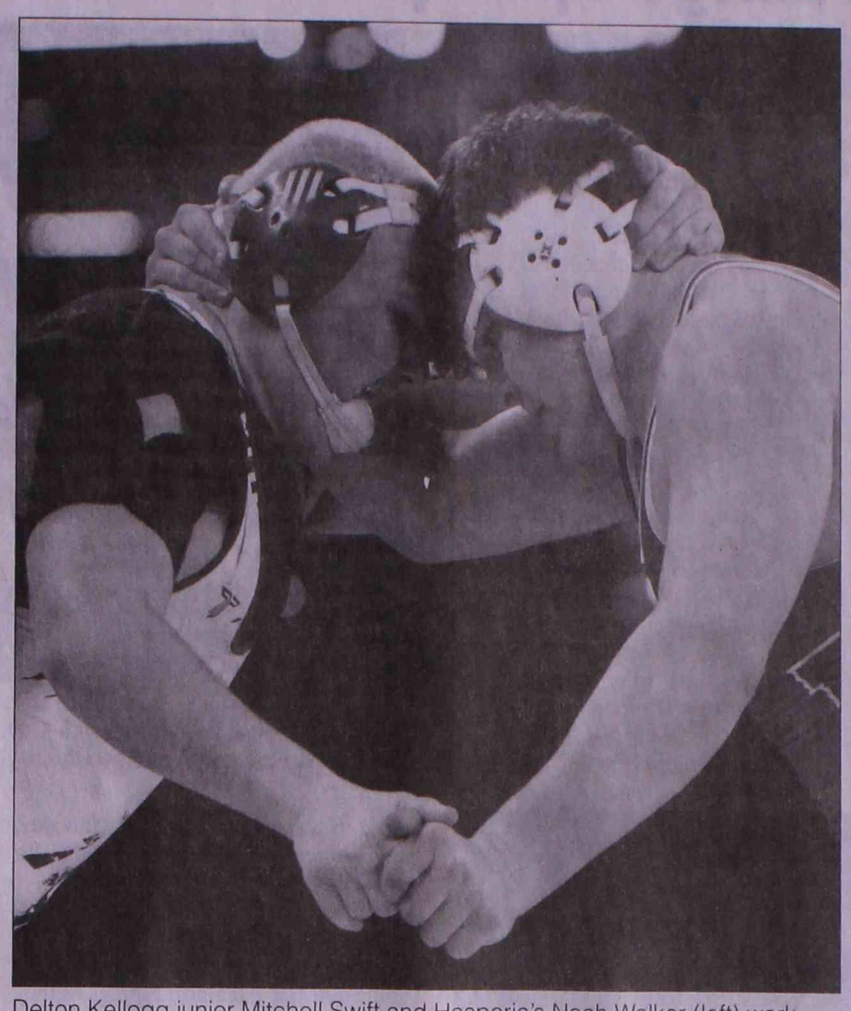
Being in the last weight class to take the mat, Delton Kellogg junior heavyweight Mitchell Swift got the chance to watch the Stampfler boys go to work Friday afternoon in Ford Field.

Freshman Evan Stampfler (30-16) piled up points in a 15-0 technical fall victory over St. Louis' Cole Grollimund to start the weekend in Division 4's 120-pound weight class at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals in downtown Detroit. Senior Gauge Stampfler took the mat in the 132-pound weight class and pinned Otisville LakeVille Memorial's Adam Hock midway through the second period of their opening round match.

"I've wrestled almost my whole life with them," Swift said. "Whenever they won, those were my highlights with them. They were getting techs and pins and I was like, heck yeah. It was a good day to watch them wrestle. It was a fun day."

While he was watching at the start of the tournament, Swift closed the Division 4 State Finals Saturday with everyone watching him and the rest of the 285-pound state medalists receive their awards. Swift and Gauge both earned state medals for the second year in a row at Ford Field. Swift (37-7) moved up from fifth his sophomore year to third as a junior, and Gauge (36-8) placed seventh in his weight class after placing fifth last year.

Evan managed just the opening round victory and then was bested in his next two matches. Both Stampfler boys were beaten out in the quarterfinals by wrestlers who went on to win individual state championships.



Delton Kellogg junior Mitchell Swift and Hesperia's Noah Walker (left) work for control during their consolation semifinal match in Division 4's 285-pound weight class Saturday inside Ford Field in Detroit at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals. Swift bested Walker 7-1 and then went on to place third with a win in his final match of the weekend.

Swift had his sights set on a state championship entering the tournament, but once Leslie's Tanner Craft pinned him early in the second period of their 285-pound championship semifinal bout Friday evening he was happy to come back and battle for third place.

"It was a good match for us, but he just threw me," Swift said of his semifinal defeat. "I thought we were out of bounds, but we were still in. I looked, but it was just too late for me to try and do anything and he pinned me."

The Delton heavyweight started his tournament run with a quick pin of Benzie Central's Jason Peltier and then beat out Otisville LakeVille Memorial's Doug Hoyt, a wrestler with only one loss all season, 5-1 in the quarterfinals.

In the battles for medal placing Saturday, Swift took a 7-1 win over Hesperia's Noah Walker in the consolation semifinals and then outscored Cass City's Rylan Kruse 8-2 in the match for third.

Swift also beat Kruse in the final match of their 2024 tournament in a match for fifth. He said a good conditioning and a good warm-up were keys to his successful Saturday at the finals in 2025.

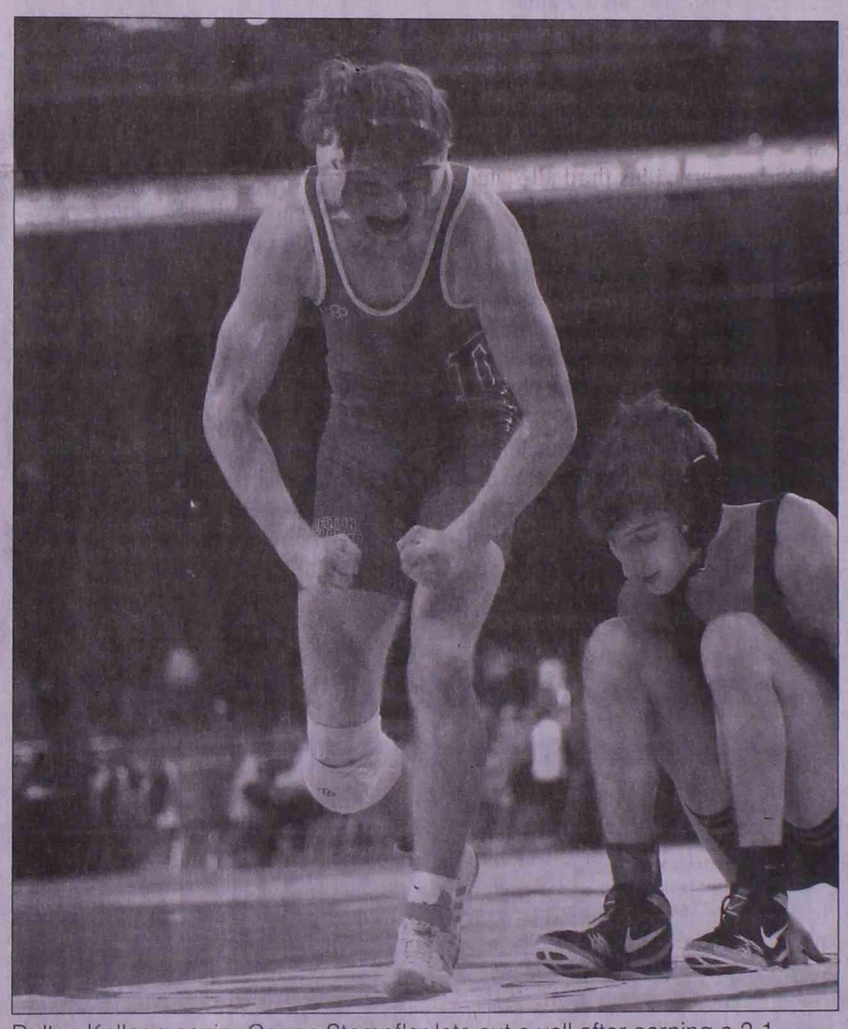
"Last year was a rough year because I was hurting," Swift said. "A lot of my joints are just gone from football. This year is way better, because I took care of my body from wrestling season. Just taking care of it, massaging it, going to therapy, icing it, whatever coach tells you to do to take care of it you've got to do it."

"Some things you can't tough out," he said he has learned.

Following the opening round pin, Gauge was outscored 18-2 by Clinton senior Braylon Long in the 132-pound quarterfinals. Long went on to win the Division 4 132-pound state championship at their weight class.

Gauge went on to defeat Union City's Mason Hawthorne 5-0 in the blood round Friday. Lakeview's Cameron Perez outscored Gauge 6-1 in their first match Saturday and the in the match for seventh Stampfler pulled out a 2-1 win over White Pigeon's Mazzy Lambert. A reversal in the third period of that medal round match with Lambert proved all Gauge needed to close his senior season with a victory.

Evan was bested 19-4 by Manchester's Sammy Stewart in the quarterfinals and then fell in an 8-5 sudden overtime decision against Beaverton's Eric Larson in the blood round.



Delton Kellogg senior Gauge Stampfler lets out a yell after earning a 2-1 victory over White Pigeon's Mazzy Lambert in their match for seventh place in Division 4's 132-pound weight class Saturday inside Ford Field in Detroit during the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT.

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in BARRY County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 13, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Angela Marie Metzger and Brad Allen Jousma, joint tenancy with full rights of survivorship, whose address is 600 E. North Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, being a mortgage dated July 9, 2021, and recorded on July 20, 2021 with Document Number 2021-009248, Barry County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated January 29, 2025 and recorded on February 3, 2025 and given document number 2025-000828 in Barry County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX AND 02/100 DOLLARS ($233,466.02). Said premises are situated in the City of Hastings, County of Barry, State of Michigan, and are described as: COMMENCING AT THE NORTH 1/4 CORNER OF SECTION 8, TOWN 3 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 03'20" WEST 1743.01 FEET ALONG THE NORTH-SOUTH 1/4 LINE OF SAID SECTION 8; THENCE 90 DEGREES 0'00" EAST 99 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF NORTH STREET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 90 DEGREES 0' 00" EAST 30.75 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE; THENCE EASTERLY 68.52 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, AND A CURVE TO THE LEFT OF THE RADIUS OF WHICH IS 433.00 FEET AND THE CHORD OF WHICH BEARS NORTH 85 DEGREES 27'59" EAST 68.45 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 03' 20" EAST 360.41 FEET; THENCE NORTH 90 DEGREES 00' 00" WEST 99.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES 03' 20" WEST 355.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 600 E. North Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: February 13, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson (P69564), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6254 (02-13)(03-06)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Barry County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on March 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE –Greg Walejewski and Jessica Walejewski, original mortgagors, granted a Mortgage to Coastal Community Bank, dated September 1, 2022, and recorded December 27, 2022 as Instrument Number 2022-012600, in official records of Barry County Register of Deeds, Michigan, which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $51,202.67. The following described premises situated in the Village of Middleville, County of Barry, State of Michigan, to-wit: Lot 100, Misty Ridge No. 5, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 66, Barry County Records. Commonly known as 625 Misty Ridge Drive, Middleville, MI 49333 Property ID# 08-41-128-100-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241, in which case the redemption period shall be 1 month, or under MCL 600.3241a 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a (b) notice, whichever is later, or extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice ATTENTION PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. This notice is from a debt collector. Dated: February 21, 2025 For more information, please call: (513) 852-6066 Daniel A. Cox Wood + Lamping, LLP Attorneys for Servicer 600 Vine Street, Suite 2500, Cincinnati, OH 45202 File 24-12040

(02-27)(03-20)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BARRY COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-30037-DE
Judge William M. Doherty

Court address: 206 W. Court St Suite 302 Hastings MI 49058
Court telephone: 269-945-1390

Estate of Dona Jane Olsen. Date of birth: 04/23/1924.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Dona Jane Olsen, died 10-18-2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jane Echtinaw of 6812 Guy Road, Nashville, MI 49073, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 206 West Court Street, Hastings, Michigan 49058 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 02/25/2025
Michael J. Phillips P33715
121 West Apple Street, Suite 101
Hastings, Michigan 49058 269-945-3512

Jane Echtinaw
6812 Guy Road
Nashville, Michigan 49073 517-852-4815

Nowak falls to state champ in quarter's at Ford Field

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Maple Valley Polish exchange student Filip Nowak closed out his winter of American wrestling scoring one win at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals at Ford Field in downtown Detroit Friday.

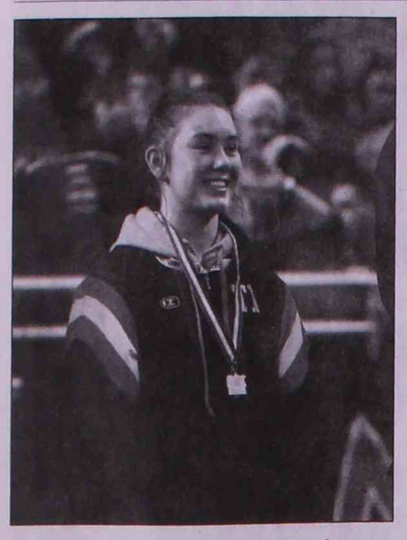
Nowak, competing in Division 4's 144-pound weight class, opened his finals' weekend with a pin of Atlanta's Andrew Brinker 24 seconds into the second period of their bout.

Nowak was pinned himself in the second period of his quarterfinal match, by Hudson's Beckett Campbell who went on to win the state championship at their weight class.

In Friday's blood round, where the winners advance to Saturday's medal matches and their opponents see their season come to an end, Nowak was pinned by Otisville LakeVille Memorial's Andrew Tucker.

The year ends with a record of 35-12 for Nowak.

TKHS puts three on Ford Field medal stand



TK senior Emma Gibson smiles from the medal stand Saturday after placing sixth in the girls' 135-pound weight class during the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals at Ford Field in Detroit.

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Three of the four Trojans wrestling at Ford Field this weekend in the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals will close their tournament run on the state medal stand Saturday afternoon.

TK sophomore Adelaide Holderman wrestled her way to a fourth-place finish in the girls' 170-pound weight class and senior teammate Emma Gibson placed sixth in the girls' 135-pound weight class. Trojan senior Jayce Curtis placed eighth in Division 2's 165-pound weight class. It is the first all-state wrestling performance for all three. Curtis (38-14) and Gibson (31-7) are both three-time state qualifiers. This was Holderman's first finals appearance.

Holderman and Gibson both wrestled their way into the championship quarterfinals Friday before being bumped into the consolation bracket, and both girls finish their season with more than 30 victories. Curtis opened his tournament and closed his tournament with losses to Holly's Christian Preston, but won a pair of consolation bouts Friday to secure his spot on the state medal stand.

All three Trojans found themselves in the "blood round" Friday where a win earned them another day of wrestling and a spot on the state medal stand, and a loss would mean the end of their state tournament run. Curtis' match there in the second round of consolation was one of the wildest he has ever wrestled. He took a 20-17 decision over Kaleb Gagne of Escanaba.

Gagne had a takedown eight seconds into the bout and led 7-2 after getting another takedown with 15 seconds to go in that opening period. Curtis managed an escape and a take down of his own in the final few seconds of the period to get within 7-6.

The second period was more of the same. Gagne got of the bottom quick, and then Curtis took his first lead of the match with a take down. They traded points rom there with Curtis notching two takedowns in the period and then Gagne one in the end that sent him into the third period in front 13-12.

Curtis started the third period in the bottom position. He reversed his way to the top, then Gagne did the same, and then Curtis managed another reversal all within the first 75 seconds of that third period. The second reversal nudged Curtis in front 16-15. This time he got Gagne to his back for four nearfall points that proved to be the difference in the match at the end even with Gagne scoring another reversal with 38 seconds to go. Curtis prevented Gagne from scoring again to advance with the three-point win.

Curtis and Gibson both said they went into the state finals with fewer nerves this time around. Curtis said he really put a focus on trying to be the aggressor in his bouts at the finals this year.

Curtis was bested in his two medal round matches Saturday.

Gibson started her tournament with a pin of Bark River-Harris' Vaida Uskilith-Karaja, but then fell 12-7 to Center Line's Carmella Clark in the quarterfinals of their



Thornapple Kellogg senior Jayce Curtis looks to get a shot in against Holly's Christian Preston during their match for seventh place in Division 2's 165-pound weight class Saturday during the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals at Ford Field in Detroit. Curtis placed eighth to earn his first all-state medal. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

135-pound girls' bracket. She went on to a 3-3 weekend that ended in another matchup with Clark in the bout for fifth-place that was decided by an 8-7 score.

In between those contests with Clark, Gibson scored an 8-3 win over Otsego's Samanatha Bonovetz in the blood round Friday and then won her first match of the medal rounds Saturday by pinning Allen Park's Adeline Tuccini. West Bloomfield's Tamari Khizanishvili bested Gibson 14-5 in the consolation semifinals to put her in the match for fifth.

Holderman (32-13) won three straight matches by fall in consolation after a quarterfinal loss Friday in the girls' 170-pound weight class. She started her tournament run by pinning Waverly's Se'nyah Suddeth-Doss early in the second period of their match. In the quarterfinals, Holderman was bested 7-2 by Clinton's Raven Aldridge who went on to finish as the 170-pound state runner-up behind Caledonia's Maddie Hayden.

From there, Holderman started her run up the medal stand by pinning Westland John Glenn's Brooklyn Fisher in the blood round Friday. Holderman started her Saturday by pinning Marcellus' Carlee Osborn and then Waverly's Victoria Carter. In the match for third, Holderman was bested 7-0 by Pine River's Adalyn Holmes.

The TK team also had senior Raini Braska competing in the girls' 110-pound weight class. She was bested in her two bouts Friday in Detroit

LHS has pair place second in the state

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

Joel Simon earned his third all-state medal.

Vincent Stamm earned his second all-state medal.

Bryson Boucher earned his first all-state medal.

It was a pretty good weekend for the Lakewood varsity wrestling team at Ford Field. The senior 285-pounder Simon (52-5) and sophomore 150-pounder Boucher (50-8) both won their way into the championship finals of their respective Division 3 weight classes at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals at Ford Field in downtown Detroit, placing second in the end. Stamm (38-6) placed seventh at his weight class for the second season in a row.

It would have been a major upset for either Boucher or Simon to take a state championship, but getting to the finals of the finals was certainly something in both guys' plans for the weekend.

Boucher was 0-2 in his freshman year appearance at Ford Field. He started this trip with three consecutive victories.

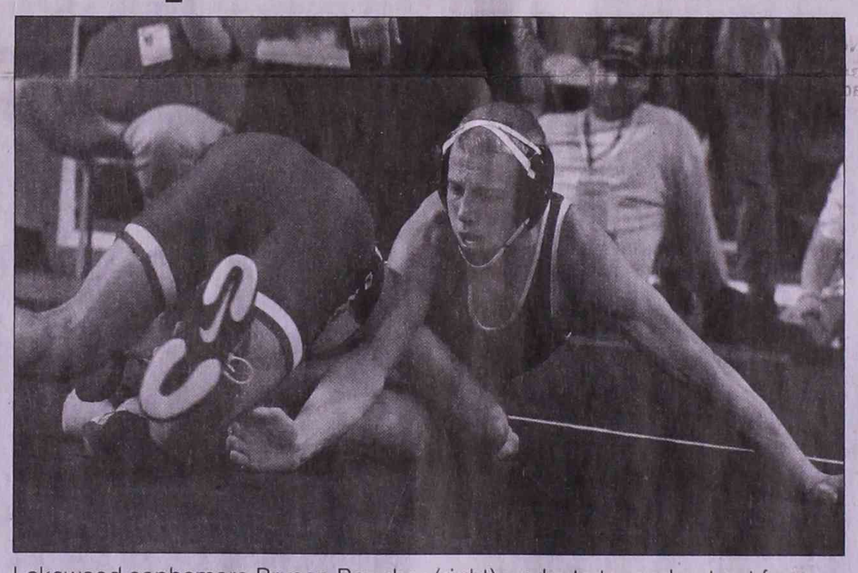
"Last year, I felt like I set my goals too short," Boucher said. "My goal was to qualify as a freshman. I got here and I think my mind said 'you met your goal' and I didn't perform as well as I could have. It kind of sucks. I can't go back and change that.

"This year, I said let's go for it. Let's reach for it. Shoot for the highest. Top three in the state, when you're talking about ranked guys in the state it's the top three you look at. Those are the guys you want to beat. I wanted to be top three, so I sat on the kitchen table one day with my dad and my mom and said I was going to be top three in the state this year. There was no doubt in my mind. I told myself I was going to do it."

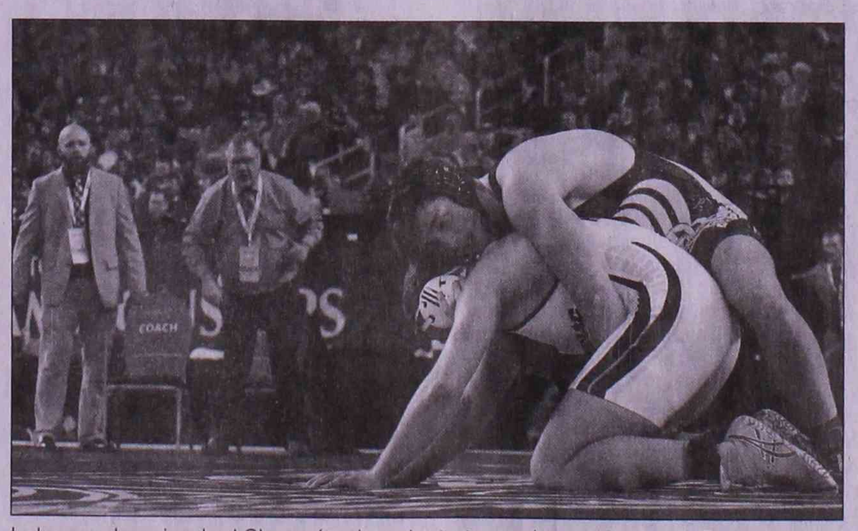
It took one of the very best of the very best wrestlers in the state of Michigan to end Boucher's Ford Field winning streak this time. Dundee junior Blake Cosby, ranked third in the nation among high school wrestlers at his weight class, finished off a 37-0 season and his second-straight state title by earning a 19-4 technical all against Boucher in the 150-pound championship match.

"He is crazy. He is really good. I knew I was getting into it with him. He beat Johnny [Krebs] last year 7-0, and Johnny is a great wrestler as well," Boucher said. "I went out there and tried to do my stuff, and it didn't work out, but I've got next year."

"He has teched everyone. He teched everyone from first match, to quarter's, to semi's to finals, he has teched everyone. He is the real deal. It was cool to get on the mat with the best in the state and show what I have to work on."



Lakewood sophomore Bryson Boucher (right) works to try and get out from under Dundee's Blake Cosby in Division 3's 150-pound championship match at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals Saturday at Ford Field in Detroit. Cosby took a 19-4 technical fall to complete an undefeated junior season.



Lakewood senior Joel Simon (top) works to try and turn Algonac's Reid Hiltunen during the third period of their Division 3 285-pound championship match at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals Saturday at Ford Field in Detroit. Hiltunen took the state championship with an 11-1 win. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

Boucher scored a 9-0 major decision over Kingsford's Tyler Bray in the opening round and then defeated the number two seed, Adrian Madison's Landon Mohr in a harrowing 11-8 decision in the quarterfinals. While he got that win, Boucher wasn't really pleased with how he wrestled in that match having to fight from behind and score a late take down for the victory. He said he felt like he was back at the top of his game in an 18-5 major decision over Shepherd's Martine Wiggins in the semifinals Friday evening.

It took more than just saying he wanted to be in the top three to get to that spot on the state medal stand.

"I did a lot over the summer, Michigan Premiere, Massa … just training there with the best," Boucher said. "The best in the state go there. It was a blast, and I went out to some of the biggest tournaments over the summer. I went to Fargo and I did all right out there. I just trained a lot over the summer. I practiced Monday through Friday with the high school team and then I practice over on Sunday in St. Johns. It takes a lot. A lot of dedication."

Simon too had an uber tough opponent in the championship round (but really who doesn't?). Algonac senior Reid Hiltunen completed a 55-1 season with an 11-1 win over Simon in their 285-pound title match – scoring all 11 points in the opening period and then holding on for the win.

Simon said he was hoping to be able to do some good work on his feet against the tough finals opponent Hiltunen, but he never really got the chance. Hiltunen was on top for most of the first two periods. He got an early take down and then put Simon on his back for four nearfall points twice in that first two minutes. Hiltunen then chose the top position to start the second period and worked on top of Simon for two scoreless minutes.

At that point, Hiltunen didn't need to do much more to clinch the state championship. Simon fought and tried a couple different things throughout the third period, but a stalling point was the only score he could earn.

"He was really tough," Simon said.

Simon's closest match on the scoreboard throughout the weekend was his first one, a 2-0 win over Armada's Joseph Abramovitch, but he said he felt like he was in control of that one the entire time. From there, Simon pinned Dowagiac's Cal Chapman midway through the third period of their quarterfinal match and then he shut out Reed City's Wyatt Spalo 7-0 in the semifinals Friday evening.

Over four varsity seasons, Simon was a four-time state qualifier with more than 160 varsity wins. He placed third at the state finals as a sophomore and fourth as a junior.

Stamm pulled out a 2-1 win over Detroit Voyageur College Prep's Carlos Herrera in the blood round Friday and then eventually outscored South Haven's Jose Garcia 13-9 in the match for seventh place Saturday afternoon.

Stamm opened his tournament with a 7-4 win over Mason County Central's Hunter Sanford in a sudden victory overtime period, and then ran into Byran Sterling from Dundee who bested him 17-2 in the quarterfinals. Sterling went on to place third at their weight class.

In the blood round Friday afternoon, Stamm took a 2-1 win over Detroit Voyageur College Prep's Carlos Herrera. A reversal midway through the second period put Stamm into the lead. Herrera escaped quickly, but those were the only points either guy could manage through their five-minute match. Herrera worked on top of Stamm throughout the third period, but couldn't turn him over to take the lead.

Stamm fell 4-1 to Imlay City's Tanner Land to start the medal rounds Saturday, and then closed out his win with the four-point victory over Garcia to match his freshman season finish at the finals.

The Lakewood program also had junior Lillian Teachworth competing in the girls' 105-pound weight class. She fell in the opening round, won by injury default in the first round of consolation, but then bowed out as she fell to Powers North Central's Maizy Olson in the blood round.

Gars win two events at OK Rainbow East Championships

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The Grand Rapids Gars varsity boys' swimming co-op took a pair of championships over the weekend at the OK Rainbow East Championship hosted by Byron Center High School.

Senior Ethan Klopfenstein swam to a winning time of 56.34 seconds in the 100-yard backstroke and he chased after freshman teammate Gabriel Van in the 100-yard butterfly. Van won that race in 56.43 seconds with Klopfenstein third in 55.67.

The Gars team, a co-op between Thornapple Kellogg, West Michigan Aviation Academy, Unity Christian, Hopkins and West Catholic, placed fourth in the final standings Saturday. Wayland clinched the conference championship with a score of 451 points ahead of Ottawa Hills 471, Caledonia/Lowell/South Christian 335, Grand Rapids Gars 314, Catholic Central 264 and Grand Rapids Union 106.

That 100-yard backstroke final was an outstanding one for the Gars too with senior Hunter Tietz second in 58.32 and freshman Sreyas Murmu seventh in 1 minute 6.62 seconds.

Van and Tietz went 2-3 in the 200-yard individual medley. Van hit the wall in 2:06.44 and Tietz in 2:10.42.



Grand Rapids Gars senior Ethan Klopfenstein races through the water in the 100-yard butterfly during the prelim's of the OK Rainbow East Championship Meet at Byron Center High School Friday. **Photo by Brett Bremer**

Van, Klopfenstein, Tietz and teammate Ty Denney all earned all-conference honors for their point totals at the championships.

Denney's top individual performance came in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.68 seconds. He was also fifth in the 100-yard freestyle in 52.86.

Ethan Magnuson, the Gars' lone diver competing, was sixth with a score of 214.85 points over the course of his 11 dives. The performance earned him a spot in the regional diving competition this season.

The Gars' Haiden Vruggink placed eighth in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:46.32 and Gars' senior Nolan Send was ninth in that event despite a time of 5:41.39 in the 'B' Final that bested his teammate Vruggink's time.

The Gars were fourth in the 200-yard medley relay to start the race and the top relay performance from the team came from the foursome of Send, Tietz, Denney and Van that was third in the 200-yard freestyle relay with a time of 1:33.39.

Sutfin brothers take spots on D1 state medal stand

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

What expertise did Hastings senior Keegan Sutfin have to share with his freshman brother Hunter Sutfin as they prepped for the 2025 MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals at Ford Field in Detroit?

None really according to Hunter.

"I just said it is big," Keegan said, "but he has been to these types of tournaments before like nationals. He has gone out of state. I didn't really think he needed a pep talk. He is better than me, so he has got it."

Keegan was a state medalists for the second season in a row placing sixth in Division 1's 157-pound weight class. Hunter placed fourth in the 106-pound weight class at his first finals, finishing as the first freshman with over 50 wins in a season for the Saxon program.

It took a good run for Hunter to reach the consolation final for third and fourth place Saturday. He had to win four consecutive consolation matches after falling to Hartland's Michael Abbey in the opening round Friday morning. Abbey pinned Hunter with 15 seconds left in the third period of their first match.

"He turned me on bottom. I couldn't get away from him. I was pretty mad. I knew I could get him next time," Hunter said.

And there was a next time. Hunter got some revenge by outscoring Abbey 12-10 in the consolation semifinals Saturday.

"I think we knew he could place," Hastings head coach Jason Slaughter said. "I think he has had a good season. He was in there with anyone. We knew going in he could hang and wrestle with any of the guys in there. I think he came out slow that first match, but he turned around and beat the kid in the consolation semi's … as soon as he kind of got over being here and got back his confidence he just did what he's good at. He's a super good wrestler."

Hunter pinned L'Anse Creuse's Nick Martinek to start consolation matches Friday and then made quick work with Warren Mott's Shane Stevens with a 46-second pin in the blood round. Hunter opened his day of medal placement matches Saturday by pinning Romeo's Nico Adamo and then got the win in the rematch with Abbey.

The tournament closed for Hunter with a 5-4 loss to Hartland's Jase Sensor in the match for third.

Keegan was fifth at the state finals as a junior, and would have loved to have placed higher this season, but did what he could before ultimately bowing out of the match for fifth by injury default against Detroit Catholic Central's Braxten Roche.

"I think it was a good experience," Keegan said. "I liked it. I have been battling shoulder problems this whole year with a torn labrum, so finishing sixth is not where I wanted. I could have done better, but with no shoulders I am pretty proud of it. It's good."

Keegan still managed a 40-6 record this season. He beat Utica's Gabe Griffith 4-3 in the opening round of the finals and then took a 22-12 win over Roche in the quarterfinals. Davison's Kyle Jelinek pinned Keegan late in the first period of their championship semifinal match Friday evening and then went on to win the 157-pound state championship.

"I kind of got beat up in the semifinals," Keegan said. "He went for my shoulder and I got pinned pretty fast. Not how I wanted it, kind of embarrassing actually, but nothing I can do about it."

He woke up sore Saturday and lost a tough fight with Novi's Anthony Madafferi 6-4 before the second meeting with Roche.

"He went out after it and I think he is satisfied in the end," Slaughter said. "He is beat up. He knew going in, and really all season, that thing has just been torn up. He was just giving it one more go. He knew he had to wrestle through it. He has been in a lot of pain the past few weeks, but just kind of wrestled through it. Pretty impressive what he was able to do with one arm basically."

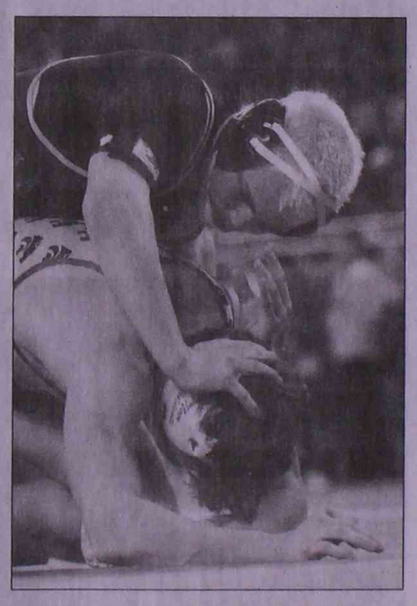
While Keegan didn't have any big advice for his younger brother before the tournament, he was happy to get to see him compete.

"I was into all of his matches," Keegan said. "I was really excited to watch him wrestle. He did great and he can do better. He has got good things coming.

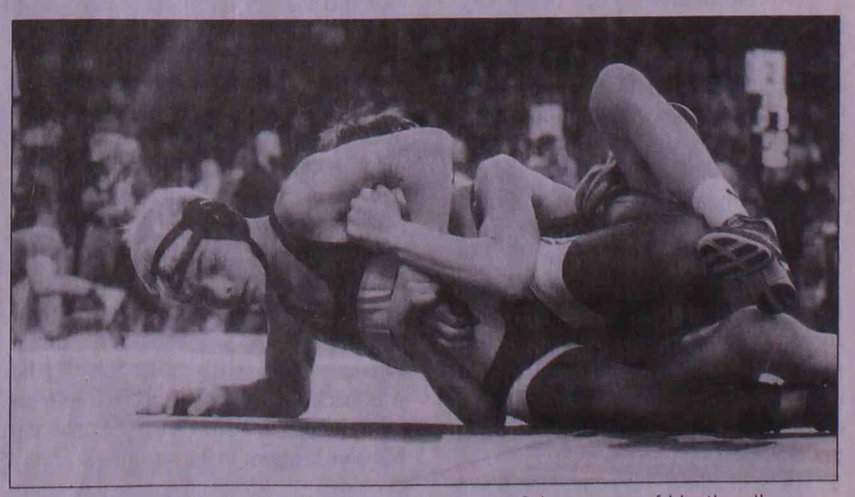
"This was a great weekend. I liked it, loved it. It was a great experience to end senior year."

It was a tough end to senior year for one

See **BROTHERS** on 15



Hastings senior Keegan Sutfin (top) looks for a way to try and score against Novi's Anthony Madafferi in their consolation semifinal match Saturday in Division 1's 157-pound weight class during the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals at Ford Field in Detroit. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Saxon freshman Hunter Sutfin works to get out of the grasp of Hartland's Michael Abbey during his 12-10 win in Division 1's 106-pound consolation semifinals at Ford Field in Detroit Saturday. Sutfin scored a third-place finish in their weight class at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals.

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HHS girls find aggressiveness key in Finals matches

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The first Hastings girl to qualify for the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals three times has as medal to show for her efforts now.

Saxon senior Jordan Milanowski wrestled her way to an eighth-place finish in the girls' 140-pound weight class over the weekend at Ford Field in downtown Detroit.

"I am actually really happy. I have been wanting it. It was kind of like my goal the last two years and I made it finally," Milanowski said.

"My coach told me not to worry about what the other person was doing, so I was just like okay, and I just jumped on the mat and I was aggressive basically."

Milanowski did her best to do things her way over the weekend, but nerves got to junior Dezarae Mathis a little bit and she said she should have been more aggressive herself while competing in the 115-pound weight class. Still, Mathis earned an all-state medal for the second season in a row with an eighth-place finish in the 115-pound weight class.

The Saxon team also had senior Naomi Grummet competing in the girls' 145-pound weight class, but she was bested in her blood round match Friday afternoon.

All three Hastings girls fell in their opening round match Friday. Milanowski got pinned by Atlanta's Kaycie Moldenhauer late in the first period of their opener. From there Milanowski pinned Mt Morris' Aleah Swilley and Perry's Grace Spiess to secure her spot in Saturday's medal rounds where she ultimately finished eighth. She closes the season with a record of 30-13

The blood round win over Spiess was a highlight of the weekend for the Saxon senior.

"She was kind of gaining points on me and she almost had me at one point, then I just put her in a cowcatcher, and I was aggressive and I kept driving at it and I got her finally," Milanowski said.

Mathis fell 14-2 to Frankfort's Isabella Crompton in the opening round Friday. She bounced back with two quick pins. She stuck Waverly's Jazlynn Jones in 57 seconds in the first round of consolation and then pinned Eastern's Olivia Delacruz 32 seconds into their blood round match.

Mathis closed out her junior season with a 30-5 record. She too fell in her two Saturday bouts in the medal rounds.

"I was hoping to do better than last year, but a medal is a medal so that is good," Mathis said. "I was more nervous going into it, so I would wait for them to do their moves on me instead of doing what I know works for me. I just wrestled funky all weekend."

"It is all different girls. These are girls I didn't know. Freshman year and sophomore year I wrestled at 120, and these are girls I only wrestled at districts and regionals. Usually, if I have wrestled them and I've beaten them I know what they are going to try and do and how they react to things I try and do to them."



Hastings junior Dezarae Mathis holds Lakeshore's Emma Baker on her back during their consolation match Saturday morning to open the medal rounds in the girls' 115-pound weight class at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals inside Ford Field in Detroit. **Photos by Brett Bremer**



Hastings senior Jordan Milanowski works to score against Holton's Monica Mullins during their match to open the medal rounds Saturday at Ford Field in downtown Detroit. Milanowski, a three-time state qualifier, earned her first state medal with an eighth-place finish in the girls' 140-pound weight class at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals over the weekend.

She tried to do some scouting work ahead of the finals, but found tracking down video of opponents online to be both tough and expensive.

Milanowski said there was one part of prep this season she found really helpful – working with members of the Hastings guys' team.

"They kind of taught me a lot of things that like I didn't know until the end of the season to just keep going and keep being explosive," Milanowski said.

"We had been asking for it. They just kind of pushed it more on us this year and it worked out nice. I hope they keep doing that. It was pretty nice."

Grummet was 1-2 on the weekend. She fell 19-3 to Margaret Buurma from Fowlerville, the first girl to win four individual state wrestling championships in the history of the MHSAA, in the first round of the girls' 145-pound weight class.

Grummet bounced back for a 15-0 technical fall of her own over Monroe's Eloisa Reyes in the first round of consolation, but then was bested 11-3 by Oa Carlson's Bayle Buvia in the blood round.

While Buurma is the first four-time girls' champion, the MHSAA also crowned its first girls' team state champion based on points from the weekend's individual finals.

Grand Haven took the state championship with 69.5 points ahead of Lowell 59.5, Fowlerville 57, Romeo 56.5 and West Bloomfield 50.5 in the top five.

BROTHERS

Continued from Page 14

other Hastings state qualifier. Isaac Friddle entered the weekend hoping to be as four-time state medalist, but came up short of that goal. He pinned Troy's Philip Lucut in the first round of the 215-pound competition, but then faced Detroit Catholic Central senior Connor Bercume in the second round. Bercume took a 19-2 technical fall on his way to a 48-0 season and a state championship.

Bounced to the blood round, Friddle was bested 10-5 by Reeths-Puffer's Sage Secrest to close his season with a 47-8 record.

"He wrestled okay," Slaughter. "[Secrest] kind of knew how to wrestle him and kind of avoided Friddle the whole match, and Friddle couldn't really get to his stuff like he wanted to."



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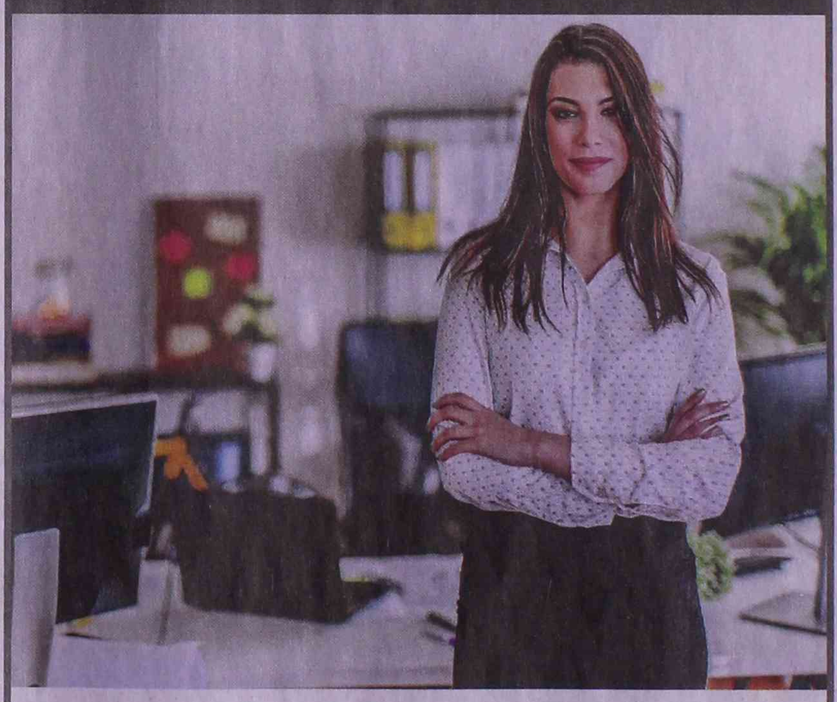
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Panthers narrowly earn third win over Lions

Brett Bremer
Sports Editor

The old adage about it being tough to beat a team three times in one season that rolls around come tournament time proved true at Pewamo-Westphalia High School Monday.

The Delton Kellogg varsity girls' basketball (6-16) team manged to hold on for its third win of the season over the Maple Valley girls, 37-32, in the MHSAA Division 3 District Quarterfinals.

The Panthers took a 16-point win over the Lions in the first game of the season back in December, and then beat them by 24 in Delton at the end of January.

The Lions (3-20) played tougher, scrappier, got to loose balls, forced jumps, pulled down rebounds and more than kept pace with the Panthers through the first 12 and a half minutes of play. They had 20 offensive rebounds in the ballgame. A pair of free throws by senior guard Ines Sanchez bumped a little Lion lead to 14-10 with 3:38 to go in the first half.



Delton Kellogg senior Josie Williams attacks the basket during her team's MHSAA Division 3 District Quarterfinal ballgame against Maple Valley at Pewamo-Westphalia Monday.

Delton Kellogg answered with a bucket by junior guard Addie Stampfler in the paint, which drew the first foul of the night on Sanchez, and then a minute later junior Jalin Lyons banked in a three-pointer to put the Panthers in front.

Those two baskets were the start of a 13-0 run by Delton Kellogg that stretched into the second half. The Panthers led the ballgame 20-14 at the half and pushed the lead to 27-14 before Lion freshman center Abbigail Harvey put in a shot midway through the third quarter.

"We went man-to-man for a stretch there and it helped us until we got into foul trouble," Delton Kellogg head coach Kevin Lillibridge said. "We started with basically three post players, and then when we went to our guards we could really help on [Sanchez] better, and our close outs were better during that stretch."

The Panther lead was 30-20 going into the fourth quarter, and the lead grew as large as 34-20 before the Lions really started to chip away at all.

It was just the fifth game of the season the Panthers played in that was decided by fewer than ten points in the end. That late-game inexperienced showed a bit for the Panthers, who were also limited by foul trouble in the end. The Panthers started the game with seven and finished with five having both junior guard Izzie Wendland and Stampfler sidelined with five fouls each.

"Without Addie with one minute left things changed," Lillibridge said. "You could tell. Josie is throwing up to a sophomore that has scored six total varsity points. We don't have a delay. It is like spread them out and then screen away, but we've just got to execute."

Stampfler was on the bench at the start of the game too, but she came on to put in a team-high 15 points. She was 9-of-17 at the free throw line. Sanchez led the Lions, attacking the basket all night as usual, with 21 points. Sanchez managed to put in just 4-of-17 free throw attempts though.

"[Sanchez] is really good. She is a gifted player. But we know what she is doing, but we were still helping with our hands instead of our hips," Lillibridge said. "For that good stretch, we closed out better and we ran. When we run, we're good."



Delton Kellogg senior Lucy Lester (center) fights for the ball with Maple Valley freshman Dahnela Betancourt (right) and sophomore Audrey Burpee (left) during their MHSAA Division 3 District Quarterfinal ballgame at Pewamo-Westphalia High School Monday. **Photos by Brett Bremer**

DK got nine points from Lyons and five each from Williams and Wendland.

Maple Valley also got seven points from Harvey.

"If we're a little better around the basket, I think the game is tighter," Maple Valley head coach Landon Wilkes said. "I thought we missed too many things around the basket. I thought we took shots when we needed to take shots. Nobody backed down taking a jump shot tonight. It kills me if we go 0-for-whatever, but at least they're shooting. You have to shoot the ball when we're open. We'll get better."

While she had just two points, Lillibridge was pretty pleased with the efforts of senior Lucy Lester.

"She played great. She boxed out. She stepped in and made some free throws. I'm super proud of her, especially as a senior," Lillibridge said.

Overall, the Panthers were pleased to get the job done and advance. They were slated for a tough task of taking on the host Pirates in the district semifinals back at Pewamo-Westphalia High School Wednesday, March 5. P-W enters the state tournament 22-0.

